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Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak, Al-Asad, 'Arafat To Meet in Cairo

NC2906065190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS has disclosed that a tripartite summit conference, comprising Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, will be held in Cairo in the second half of July.

Citing informed Egyptian sources, the paper said the summit will aim to improve the ties between Damascus and the PLO within the framework of clearing the atmosphere in the Arab world.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Threatens Resignation Over Dialogue Issue

TA2906083290 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Jun 90 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Based on information he received about Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's talks in Washington, a Palestinian source in the territories believes that the dialogue between the United States and the PLO will resume in a few days.

The source said that, speaking on 'Arafat's behalf, 'Abd-al-Majid told the Americans that if the political process fails, 'Arafat will submit his resignation to the Palestine National Council, and he intends to do so soon.

'Arafat informed the Americans that he will not be satisfied with a resumption of the dialogue in its old form, but will insist on conducting purposeful talks and raising the level of the contacts.

The Egyptians urged the Americans to take 'Arafat's word seriously. According to the Palestinian source, the anti-Israeli statements issued by Washington were meant to prove to the Arabs that the United States is going to assume a balanced stance on the Middle East, rather than a position that the Arab world views as unconditionally pro-Israeli.

It was agreed that an excuse for resuming the dialogue will soon be found and that the Americans will make do with a Palestinian announcement that an investigation has been launched against Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas].

Discussions were also held in Washington on the need to restore Cairo's position as coordinator of the peace efforts. President Mubarak, King Husayn, and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat may soon hold a minisummit in the Egyptian capital.

Editorial Expects U.S. To Resume Dialogue

PM2806134090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jun 90 p 15

[Editorial: "Expected Blow To Israel's Schemes"]

[Text] All the indications are that U.S. President George Bush's administration has started to think seriously about going back on the decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO, now that it has been ascertained that the decision served the Israeli extremists' position and embarrassed Palestinian and Arab advocates of peace. The PLO has not said its final word about the Abu-al-'Abbas operation, especially since the investigation into the operation has not been completed.

Terrorism cannot be renounced by one side alone. Indeed Israel too must be questioned about it. One of its officers admitted to an Israeli court that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin issued orders to break Palestinian demonstrators' bones.

The best proof of Washington's realization that the continuation of the dialogue is very important for advancing the peace process is the fact that it asked [British Foreign Secretary] Douglas Hurd to maintain the dialogue with the PLO on its behalf. It also expressed to President Husni Mubarak its wish that he send his foreign minister to discuss with the U.S. President what means should be considered for continuing and advancing the peace process, and also to agree on guarantees that Israel will not attack any Arab state in the tense atmosphere prevailing in the region.

Bolstering the peace process cannot produce positive results until Israel abandons its expansionist schemes which the new government—known as the war government—emphasized it would eagerly implement.

These schemes are designed not only to end the peace process and double the scale of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, but also to plan aggression against one or more Arab states in this tense atmosphere.

It is no longer any secret that part of the Egyptian foreign minister's mission in Washington is to warn against Israel's plans to launch an imminent aggression and to draw attention to subsequent complications at the Palestinian, Egyptian, and Arab levels.

The PLO has responded to Washington's decision very calmly and responsibly. So have all the Arab states, which expect Washington to reconsider its decision.

The restoration of the dialogue would certainly mean a new start on the road to peace and a blow to all the expansionist and aggressive schemes which the Israeli Likud Government plans to implement.

'Arafat Meets With Head of European Parliament

JN2806181690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has met at the PLO's headquarters in Tunisia with Baron Crespo Enrique, president of the European Parliament.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question and in the Middle East in light of the escalation of Israeli terrorism against the sons of our Palestinian people inside their occupied homeland.

Speaking in the name of the Palestinian people, brother Abu-'Ammar valued the decisions made by the European Parliament concerning the Palestine question, our Palestinian people, and their just struggle.

Brother Abu-'Ammar also valued the decisions made by the EC in its recent session, which call for the international conference under UN auspices and the member states of the Security Council, with the attendance of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in addition to the rest of the parties to the conflict.

The meeting was attended for the Palestinians by brothers Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Mazuq], general director of the PLO Economic Department [title as received] and member of the Fatah Central Committee; Hakam Balawi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and ambassador of the State of Palestine in Tunisia; Abu-Ja'far ['Abd-al-Latif Abu Hijla], general director of the PLO Political Department; Dr. Sami Musallam, director of brother Abu-'Ammar's office; and Hayil al-Fahum, director of the Europe section of the Political Department [title as received].

Attending for the Europeans were Claudio Mareno, Italian ambassador in Tunisia; and Ireland's representative to the EEC; and Fernando Puerto, deputy director of the European Parliament's office.

PLF's 'Abbas Interviewed on Struggle, Dialogue

JN2806160890 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 27 Jun 90 p 19

[Interview with Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu-al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, PLF, by Najih Khalil; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Khalil] Now that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has been broken, do you expect the trend toward armed struggle within the PLO to be stepped up?

['Abbas] The U.S. dialogue, which had not dealt seriously with the peace process and the Palestinian initiative welcomed by international quarters, had been, for the Americans, merely a trap with many snares to strike at the constant Palestinian principles and the Palestinian home front within, and consequently, to hold captive the vital presence of the Palestinian fedayeen and spread the spirit of capitulation and despair by encouraging and covering up the massacres committed daily by the Zionist enemy against our people. [passage omitted]

Continuing or discontinuing the dialogue should not affect the march of struggle. In my opinion, the attempt to link negligence in some aspects of struggle with the dialogue is wrong. Revolutions come to a halt only when their aims are accomplished. We should not link the stepping-up of our struggle with the cutoff of the dialogue, though the U.S.-Israeli decision has undoubtedly provided an incentive for many to give priority to armed struggle. [passage omitted]

[Khalil] You said a few days ago that your next operations will be carried out on gliders. Are you considering carrying out another big military operation?

['Abbas] We have said in previous interviews that the al-Quds operation was the most difficult because it was the first chapter of a multifaceted, comprehensive program of struggle adopted by the PLF. We still have many chapters we are preparing for implementation. We said our gliders will reach Palestine; indeed, they will.

We said this to address an early, clear-worded message to the Zionist enemy which is bragging about its modern technology and its impenetrable borders by which they think they have erected a moral wall obstructing the mechanism of the fedayeen from reaching Palestine. In fact, the al-Quds operation is also a message addressed to those brothers, whom we respect, who have said that Israel has electronic borders and radars that can reach as far as the Malta beaches to justify their logic against armed struggle, and to those who have said, either in good or bad faith, that the al-Quds operation was under the surveillance of the enemy from the beginning to the end, as if the Zionist enemy possessed an amount of strength and proficiency that should prompt us to reconsider our decision to fight it. Unfortunately, what the enemy announced was not the same as what those brothers talked about. As to our qualitative operations against the enemy, they will continue, God willing, in a developed form. The PLF will remain faithful to the Palestinian homeland and the warm reception accorded the al-Quds heroic operation by our great people and the Arab masses of our nation. This warmth imparted to us sufficient strength to make our unceasing fight rise to the level of the ambition of these masses.

[Khalil] President Bush said the PLO should "expel and discipline" Abu-al-'Abbas for the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue to be resumed. Do you think there is a trend within the PLO that might push for this? If so, who symbolize this trend? Are the current objective circumstances favorable to this trend?

['Abbas] The PLO is the leader of the Palestinian people's struggle. It was and will continue to be the source of action, which worries the enemy, until the objectives for which it is fighting are achieved. It is enough to point to

the statement issued by the Executive Committee on the suspension of the dialogue to realize that the attempts made by some people to cast doubt within the Palestinian home cannot affect our national decision, and cannot alter the constant national principles that have been endorsed by the Palestinian people.

The PLO, as I have said, is the expression of Palestinian action against the enemies, and cannot but be this way. As long as we are part of this action we are considered the legitimate sons of the PLO and the Palestinian people. I will not comment on what President Bush said and the conditions he set—including expelling and taking disciplinary action against Abu-al-'Abbas and penalizing the PLF because of its operation on the Palestinian beach. I will only reassert our decision to fight the enemy and continue with our armed struggle because of our Palestinian identity and not only out of our position in the PLO which we are proud of.

[Khalil] Some Palestinian leaders have assailed the landing operation on the Palestinian coast and described it as an act of madness. How do you assess what these leaders are saying from a political viewpoint? Their understanding of the way to handle the conflict with the enemy?

['Abbas] To be precise, the Palestinian leadership is represented in the PLO Executive Committee and by the secretaries general of the Palestinian factions. The Executive Committee in particular has not expressed any stand against armed struggle. On the contrary, there was emphasis on and support for armed struggle. The statements issued by the various Palestinian factions, without exception and regardless of their political position, have blessed and praised the heroic al-Quds operation. Also, on the level of the Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied homeland, there was an exceptional state of awakening expressed through thousands of cables and tens of thousands of signatures and messages, which have yet to stop coming, blessing and asking the PLF for more military operations.

As for those who assailed the operation, finding it an act of madness, may God forgive them. They have expressed their opinions in the manner and place they deemed appropriate. It is the Palestinian's right, as I have earlier indicated, to express his opinion, and we do respect this right. However, we are interested in the decisive response that came through the masses of our people, the fighters of our revolution, the intellectuals, and the nationalists who did not remain silent about the opinion of others, but answered decisively. We are proud of this. [passage omitted]

[Khalil] Certain Palestinians—who claim knowledge of the intricacies of the matter—have said that the landing operation took place with 'Arafat's prior consent. What do you say?

['Abbas] It is well known that military operations carried out by the factions of the Palestinian revolution within the PLO framework do not have to get prior consent or approval.

In fact, the most important tasks of the PLO factions is to carry out armed struggle against the Zionist enemy. This is a duty that needs no procedural action within the PLO. Considering that the al-Quds operation took place on an occupied Palestinian beach, it absolutely does not contradict the PLO's political stance.

I have asserted since the beginning that brother leader Yasir 'Arafat was in the dark about the operation. I apologized to him publicly from the first day for not telling him in advance, especially in view of the great impact the heroic operation has had. In view of the hostility of the United States, which took the operation as a pretext to break the dialogue when the PLO, led by brother leader Yasir 'Arafat, rejected its conditions and attempts at blackmail and humiliation, I provided him with a detailed plan about the al-Quds operation illustrated with documents, maps, and pictures, as well as the order to carry out the operation, 24 hours after the U.S. announcement breaking the dialogue, so that he might use these the way he deemed appropriate to reply to the U.S. Administration, although the PLO's regulations do not mandate this.

[Khalil] Certain reports recently said you have been barred from attending Executive Committee meetings. Is this true, or are these reports merely unfounded information circulated by some people to influence you?

['Abbas] Indeed, I could not attend many of the Executive Committee meetings in recent years because of certain reasons—mainly security reasons.

My attendance of the meetings of the Executive Committee is one of the duties with which I must comply with despite the circumstances I am constantly experiencing. I try to attend most meetings, but I am usually prevented from attending due to security circumstances, to be more precise, what prevents me is only the activity of the enemies.

In this context, reports started circulating about my being barred from attending these meetings, although the national council, which elects members, is the only party that can bar these members from attending. Therefore, talk about my not attending or being barred is meant to send signals to the U.S. Administration reiterating the intentions of some people who were pained by the awakening of Palestinian action in face of the enemies. In fact, I attended all the meetings recently held by the Executive Committee.

Here, I have to address those who link Executive Committee membership with our struggle actions. Our membership in this national institution, which we are proud of, was originally to serve our national struggle for liberation and independence. The raison d'etre of our affiliation with the Executive Committee is to do our

duty in stepping up the struggle and fighting an enemy that is practicing the ugliest kind of terrorism against our people.

At any rate, Executive Committee membership should not be a bureaucratic job, but a mission of struggle by all standards.

Bassam Al-Shak'ah Denounces Arens-Mayors Meeting

JN2806203590 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Violent criticism has been leveled at the mayors of Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, and Bayt Jala, who met with the Israeli war minister, terrorist Moshe Arens, at Bethlehem municipality the day before yesterday. The meeting was described as pathetic because it broke the national consensus against meeting with the enemy government's figures.

Our correspondent this morning said that national posters denouncing the meeting were seen covering the walls in the Bethlehem area.

National struggler Bassam al-Shak'ah, the [dismissed] elected mayor of Nablus, said that the meeting serves the enemy's official political line because, as usual, the enemy times it, chooses the participants, and fixes the agenda. Therefore, such a meeting serves the enemy and its policy because it justifies the claim that there is a dialogue divorced from the intifadah and the national consensus. The struggler Bassam al-Shak'ah said: For my part, I certainly reject such a meeting and I refuse to be a tool to weaken the Palestinian viewpoint or to be used to promote the interests of the enemy policy from which our people are suffering.

Milhim on PLO Response to Talks' Suspension

PM2806102490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jun 90 p 3

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim in Amman by Layla Dib; date unspecified]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has warned against the glib talk by Yitzhaq Shamir, head of the new extremist Israeli Government, in which he says his government has no intention of attacking any Arab state and that his government is serious about the peace process.

After the Executive Committee's statement on U.S. President George Bush's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO, Milhim told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that this situation brings to mind what happened in the past when Israel pledged before the June 1967 war not to start the war, as if history were repeating itself.

He added that this glib talk about peace and coexistence with the Palestinian people in the occupied territory conceals malicious intentions. Shamir's attempt to distance himself from aggressive intentions and his concentration on the peace process is very serious. This is because the objective is deception in order to surprise the targets which he has planned to hit, and to realize his objectives as he did through his aggressive wars in the past.

This, then, puts the Middle East region on the brink of a precipice. The party which will be held responsible for leading the region to such a situation will not be the PLO or the Arab states but, rather, the party which exercised the recent veto and broke off the dialogue. Under these new conditions, the Israeli Government will move to implement its scheme to try to eliminate not only the intifadah, but the Palestinian presence in the occupied territories and to implement the "transfer" theory.

Shamir will find nobody in the occupied territories to deal with him in implementing his schemes, because Palestinian leaderships inside have begun to boycott Israeli officials—as happened when the mayor of Tulkarm was asked to meet with Moshe Arens but refused.

The Israeli Government thus will find nobody to deal with or to try to promote as an alternative to the PLO. Milhim said that at this critical, sensitive, and crucial time all the forces on which the intifadah is based—that is, the unified command [of the intifadah], Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the independents—must unite.

All the mass and people's organizations and establishments in the occupied homeland must overcome their differences and unite their forces, because the situation not longer affects some organizations and not others. It is no longer an onslaught against the left or the right: All influential forces are targeted.

The U.S. suspension of the dialogue is directed not against the PLO, but against the resolutions adopted by the Baghdad Arab summit, to test the extent of the commitment to these resolutions. The response to the decision to suspend the dialogue must be Arab, not only Palestinian.

The PLO, he said, will start to make moves at five levels: the international level, Europe, the U.S. public, the Israeli opposition, and the Palestinians inside.

At the Arab level, the PLO has called for an Arab foreign ministers meeting. It will go to the Arab League and the committee following up the summit resolution to do what is necessary to implement the summit resolutions.

As is known, the follow-up committee started its meetings in Baghdad the day before yesterday, and the PLO submitted proposals about how to confront the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with it.

At the international level, the PLO will devote special attention to the EC in order to ensure a European position in support of the Arab position, both within the

United Nations and in connection with political moves outside the United Nations. Or, as Mr. Milhim said, to set up an Arab-European front to support the intifadah and the PLO in the face of the U.S. blackmail position and the Israeli threat.

The PLO will follow developments in the opposition camp inside Israel which now represents a large sector of the Israeli public, especially since the formation of the new government. It comprises mainly the Labor Party, the Peace Now movement, and other organizations.

Milhim emphasized that "the Arabs must rely on themselves, especially after the collapse of the the socialist states, which have now started to export Jewish emigres to Palestine."

Since the summit, there has been a behind the scenes battle to prevent the Arabs from achieving self-reliance, which can only be achieved by taking a committed official position on the summit resolutions. That alone, however, is not sufficient to force the United States and Israel to reconsider all the steps which they have taken and those which they will take to unilaterally implement the second stage of the Camp David accords, even without the participation of any Arab party. He said: We are completely confident that there will be no one to cooperate with them inside to implement autonomy. This is why Israel will apply and impose it on people by force.

Here the following question arises: Where is the UN role to prevent Israel from forcibly imposing a solution on the Palestinian people inside and from escalating oppression against that people, who will have no option but to resist that scheme?

If this happens, Israel will resort to expelling many of the elements whom it believes represent an obstacle to implementing the autonomy conspiracy. Then it will unleash the settlers to attack and eliminate the others. This is where the UN role comes in, which is why the PLO will demand that the General Assembly convene an emergency session to take a position before Israel implements its scheme.

Editorial Terms U.S. Dialogue 'Shackle,' 'Trap'

JN2306144190 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Jun 90 p 1

[Editorial: "After Severing the Dialogue"]

[Text] The United States has announced it is suspending its dialogue with the PLO until the latter measures up to America's and Israel's idea of good conduct, and so has denounced the seaborne raid attempted by the Palestine Liberation Front. The operation in question was purely military in nature and left not a single civilian injured, and as such does not qualify as an act of terrorism, which, at Washington's behest, the PLO renounced in order to establish the dialogue.

However, the proceedings over the past 18 months between the United States and the PLO hardly deserve to be called a dialogue. Rather, it was an opportunity for the United States to demand that the Palestinians give, unrequitably, inch after inch. It was a shackle and a trap.

The U.S. decision to break off contacts with PLO followed by a few days the formation by Yitzhaq Shamir of a government described by certain sections of the Isreali press as one of barbarians and lunatics. What encouragement to "happy and contented Israel." What support for Israel's policies of repression, aggression, murder, and systematic terror and land theft!

Instead of being called to account and having its behavior monitored, Israel seems to be free to do what it will, and indeed is being patted on the back and is having a blind eye turned to its criminality. However, what with Arab laxity producing Palestinian concessions, Soviet apathy, and an enfeebled will of the international community, things could not have turned out otherwise.

Let us not be flustered watching oppressors and falsifiers record history. Let us remember that ever since its founding in 1948, Israel has been getting ahead while we have been marking time. Every time we seemed to be militant, Israel assumed a moderate posture. And yet, Israel has successfully launched a series of wars against us, and thus has been in a constant state of extremism.

Unless we act similarly, we will condemn ourselves to an indefinite state of capitulation. We must get our act together, and come up with something more convincing than the famous no's of Khartoum [no to recognition, no to peace, no to negotiation with Israel] and match the deed to the word.

It is an open conflict, and there is always another chance for peoples to set their course straight.

Algeria

Post-Election Demonstrations, Arrests Continue

LD2806110390 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] There have been more arrests in southern Algiers. Nine people were arrested on Monday [25 June] following violent acts near Tiaret. Correspondent Philippe Leymarie reports:

[Leymarie] Yes, there has been violence following a demonstration disputing the results of the last local elections. Several hundreds of protesters had staged violent demonstrations against the appointment to the post of assistant-mayor of an elected candidate belonging to the ruling party, the National Liberation Front [FLN].

The nine people arrested are accused of collectively rallying on streets and making threats against shopkeepers. As you know, the last local elections were won by the Islamists of the FIS, the National Salvation Front, a party that intends to fully exploit its victory by imposing its presence everywhere.

Yesterday, we learned of the setting of an Islamic trade unions organization in Tlemcen, in western Algeria. It is called the Islamic Trade Unions Movement of Algerian Workers [Le movement syndical islamique des travailleurs Algeriens], a trade union that wants itself to be national, and above all based on the principles of the Shari'ah, the Islamic law. It intends to submit its file to the authorities for agreement next August.

This announcement was made precisely when the Algiers congress of the General Union of Algerian Workers, the sole and FLN-controlled trade unions federation was being held. An anti-riot brigade had been called in to protect this congress because of a threat of a march by workers toward the congress meeting place. Within the federation itself, a minority of delegates are calling for lifting the FLN's control of the organization. In particular, they are the delegates from Kabylie who are demanding a change at the head of the trade unions federation.

New Workers Organizations Formed

Islamic Trade Union

LD2806165490 Algiers APS in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The city of Tlemcen in western Algeria witnessed recently the birth of a new trade union movement called The Islamic Movement for the Algerian Workers [al-Haraka al-'Islamiyah li-al- 'Ummal al-Jaza 'Iriyin]. According to the official spokesman of the movement it is a national trade union organization based on the teachings of the Islamic faith and stemming from the feelings of fraternity and cohesion which make the whole nation into a single body.

The movement also aims at defending the interests of the workers and representing them, and also at preserving employment in the country.

Socialist Group

LD2806150890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Work of the constituent conference of the Workers' Socialist Organization [Al-munadhamah Al-ishtirakiyah Lil'umal], which is headed by Louisa Hanonne, opened in Algiers this morning at the Palace of Exhibitions. The work is being held behind closed doors and in the absence of the national press. [passage omitted]

Asked about the possibility of this organization allying itself with political parties in the arena, the spokesman for the organization said that his party accepts an alliance with any democratic party in order to establish democracy in Algeria. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Receives Syria's Al-Shar' 27 Jun

LD2806112990 Algiers APS in English 1046 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 28 June (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid received yesterday the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' who is in Algiers in the framework of the Mediterranean non-aligned third ministerial conference.

Egypt

Contents of Gorbachev Letter to Mubarak Reported

JN2806118390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Informed sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry have divulged to our radio the contents of the letter that Soviet President Gorbachev sent to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday. In his letter, Gorbachev emphasized the importance of continuing the peaceful efforts to solve the region's crisis, declaring that the recent U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO will have a negative impact on the peace process. Gorbachev said that his country contacted Washington to stress the negative aspects of this unjustified decision, as he put it.

Gorbachev also revealed the contents of the letter he received from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which he reiterated that Soviet Jews would not be settled in the occupied territory and in which he expressed readiness to hold serious peace negotiations with neighboring Arab states.

In his letter, Gorbachev said that his country told Israel that the contents of Shamir's letter had to be linked to

actual Israeli practices in the occupied territory, especially concerning the settlement of Jews; the policy of violence had to be stopped and Palestinians had to be granted their legitimate rights. The Soviet president stated that his country devotes special attention to the Baghdad summit resolutions and asks that there be clear-cut Arab stands on the peace process. He said the Soviet Union will consider the Israeli letter merely as a show of goodwill and that his country will shortly contact Israel to prompt it to accept peace measures in the region.

Paper Calls for U.S. Impartiality

JN2806141590 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Jun 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Balanced Understanding and Credibility"]

[Text] The mission of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Washington has coincided with important Arab contacts by Cairo. President Husni Mubarak has received letters from the sultan of Oman, the amir of Bahrain, and the president of the United Arab Emirates. He has also contacted the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah Al Thani, by phone. The discussions during these contacts centered on the current situation in the region and its repercussions on the peace efforts. They also dealt with the preparations for the November Arab summit in Cairo which will mark the resumption of regular annual Arab summits as proposed by Egypt and unanimously approved by the Arabs.

No doubt, these contacts ratify Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's mission to the U.S. Administration, especially in view of Cairo's determination to help the Palestinians find a just and comprehensive solution and Egypt's belief that clearing the Arab atmosphere is the key to strengthening the foundation of the Arab struggle for a just peace.

Perhaps the U.S. Administration now has the opportunity to reconsider the decision to suspend the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue in light of the total denunciation that the American decision has received from the international community as well as from U.S. friends and allies, who saw it as tacit approval of Israeli intransigence and support for Shamir's hostile policy toward justice and peace. For, informed Israeli sources have confirmed that Shamir will continue his tough line and not respond to Baker's five points. He will also hold on to his initiative on administrative autonomy. In fact, it is believed that the U.S. decision is the green light that permits Shamir to look for Palestinian "moderates" in the occupied territories who would agree to hold direct negotiations with him, although he is personally certain that this will be impossible.

Justice does not accept partiality. It depends on a balanced understanding of the case and an impartial hearing of all parties in the case. This is what Cairo and the Arab nation hope the U.S. Administration will understand and do.

Editorial Views Israeli Policy Statement

JN2806150790 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Jun 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Wolf's Howling"]

[Text] The policy statement of Shamir's new government, which he presented to the Knesset, should be enough to show the prime minister for what he is. It makes no bones about expressing the need for a Greater Israel, a united Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel, and the right of all Jews to settle the occupied West Bank.

Nothing can be more defiant and provocative. Whatever chance there may have been for him to tone down his extremism and show some sobriety, is now all but lost. The action program of his government is a virtual diktat before all peace efforts. Shamir used to be fairly diplomatic, talking about a Greater Israel and then, faced with an international outcry, recanting, contending that he really meant a strong rather than a greater Israel. Likewise, discussing Jewish settlement in the land of Israel, he would explain that this must be in the land of Israel, it being a free democracy, and as such there was no forcing new arrivals to settle in designated localities. A good many people have been hard put to fathom the import of Shamir's words. Did he have in mind the Negev desert, for example, as Sharon once said? Indeed, many people and governments in the West were quite satisfied, since despite his vague statements, Shamir refrained from specifically calling for settlement in the occupied land. They were content enough not to press for official assurances that new arrivals would not be housed in the occupied land, although they had, here and there, made a passing reference to the need for such guarantees. The Soviet Union, however, was more explicit in this respect, warning of the consequences of Soviet Jews being settled in occupied land.

The new Israeli Government's plan of action as spelled out in its policy statement is so unequivocal that not even the least amount of sloppiness can be forgivable in standing up to it. It shows the wolf flashing its teeth not only at those "in the [Jordan] River's vicinity," but at whoever might be tempted to make a move or so much as sound a note of warning.

Column on 'Zionist' Influence in U.S., Europe

JN2806143390 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 25 Jun 90 p 3

["Words" column by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad]

[Text] The U.S. position on the Palestine question is unjustifiable. Even decisionmakers in Washington appear from their behavior to be confused and self-contradictory. Sometimes they go to the right and sometimes to the left. They are fumbling like someone who has lost his willpower and become a puppet manipulated by unknown hands.

These hands are not really unknown. After many years of wondering, it has transpired that Israel is neither an American satellite, nor is it one of the states of the United States. It is also neither a lackey nor a protege, but a party with a long reach not only in the United States, but also in the Soviet Union and East and West Europe, especially the two Germanys, which are rushing to help and compensate Israel for what happened to the Jews under Hitler, although the German dictator is long dead.

Israel has influence, power, and authority. It has the means to reach decisionmaking centers in the world and do what it likes overtly and covertly. Israel moves events and does not even wait for reactions. It is not difficult to imagine that all that has happened in the Soviet Union and East Europe may have been planned, implemented, and personally supervised by the Zionists. Why not? After all, these serious events have led to developments in Israel's favor. It may not be long before all the East European countries resume their diplomatic relations with Israel and all the African countries restore their close ties with Israel. The date of the presidential elections in the United States will also come soon and Israel will again have the main say in these elections because it knows how to control the centers of power and the men of influence in Congress by every possible means: funds or otherwise, good or crooked methods, and threats or inducements. It is doing all this in the absence of the Arab opponent, who is immersed in his pleasures, has no control over his funds, and holds nothing in his hand because he absolutely does not wield any power or influence.

All the wars we have fought, the peace initiatives we have tried, the appeals we have made, the conferences we have held, and the resolutions we have adopted have produced a strange situation which we are witnessing now; namely, Israel's open and brazen attempt to expel the Arabs from Palestine and to replace them by millions of Jewish immigrants prior to establishing Greater Israel over the bodies of the Palestinians.

The United States is fumbling. The decision it makes today may be rescinded tomorrow. The ties it severs may be restored again. It also asks questions, but no one replies. Shamir, who was ousted by the Knesset several months ago, is back to form a more violent and extremist government. The only remaining hope is the intifadah.

Discussions Held With Liberia Neighbors

NC2806142590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Egypt held urgent contacts today with the sisterly African countries adjacent to Liberia—Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Ivory Coast—to coordinate in containing the situation in Liberia and achieve reconciliation there. Reports received by the Foreign Ministry indicate an escalation of the ongoing battles which are approaching Monrovia.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt appeals again to the warring Liberian parties to protect lives and properties for the sake of the Liberian people.

Chief of Staff Describes Sinai Exercises

NC2806175290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—Lieutenent General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, the Armed Forces chief of staff, has asserted that the Armed Forces training policy serves the strategic and military goals of Egyptian policy. He said this policy is uniquely capable of readjusting to current changes and developments in armament and fighting techniques.

Abu-Shinaf said the Armed Forces is capable of amending their training programs according to various changes and under any circumstances. He added that our Armed Forces are now capable of carrying out their combat missions in battles involving conventional as well as nonconventional weapons.

These statements were made at a meeting with military reporters, following a five-day inspection tour of the Armed Forces positions in Sinai. During the tour, Lt. Gen. Abu-Shinaf visited the posts of the second and third field armies in al-Hasanah, al-Qusaymah, Rafah, al-'Arish, Saint Catherin, al-Tur, Sharm al-Shaykh, al-Naqab, the strategic straights, and on the international borders.

Lt. Gen. Abu-Shinaf said our forces in Sinai are holding regular and continuous exercises and maneuvers to maintain their combat efficiency and carry out their missions without restrictions. He added that these exercises involve all the modern weapons we have obtained. He asserted in that context that, though we are fully committed to the peace accord, our armed forces are capable of protecting Sinai.

Abu-Shinaf stated that the Egyptian Armed Forces training scheme is largely based on bringing up an officer or a soldier who is capable of undertaking multiple missions. Realizing the importance of the human factor in modern wars, we emphasize training involving shock troops, paratroopers, and various weapons, he said. In this context, he noted that the Armed Forces introduced 30-300 km marching convoys [Tabur Sayr] in the operation theaters last year to develop our troops endurance.

Lt. Gen. Abu-Shinaf asserted that all the Armed Forces training maneuvers are conducted under battle situations involving weapons of mass destruction, including surface-to-surface missiles and chemical weapons. He added that the exercises emphasize night combat, saying that 50 percent of exercises are conducted at night and that this percentage will increase to 70 percent in the coming years.

The chief of staff asserted that the Armed Forces training and equipment have reached high standards and that we are now capable of protecting our territories, deterring any aggressor, and realizing our military goals.

Abu-Shinaf asserted that Egypt is not involved in an arms race, although it possesses all the necessary equipment to safeguard its national security. He added that the Egyptian naval forces have enough weapons and equipment to reaize their goals and carry out their duty to protect our regional waters in the Mediterranean and the Red Seas. [passage omitted]

Air Defense Commander Comments on New Systems

JN2806154490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Lieutenant General Mustafa al-Shadhili, commander of the Air Defense Forces, has reported that work has been done on the antiaircraft "Sky Guard" system, which is called the "Egyptian Amun," to introduce modifications increasing its effectiveness and combat efficiency; it has been dubbed "Amun 2 B." Lt. Gen. al- Shadhili said: We are studying the acquisition of U.S. "Patriot" missiles so as to complete our air defense system. He explained that this fell within the framework of making state-of-the-art technology available to our forces. He noted that the Air Defense command welcomes arrangements with Arab states and is ready to meet all their needs. He referred in this regard to the success of Egyptian-Kuwaiti cooperation.

At a press conference yesterday on the Air Defense's 20th anniversary, Lt. Gen. al-Shadhili added that the command and control system in the Air Defense and Air Command will be turned into an automatic command system this year. He said that a full model of the automatic command and control equipment will be displayed on 15 July, during a graduation ceremony at the Air Defense College in Alexandria. He said two exhibitions, one indoors and another outdoors, will be held to show the most sophisticated air defense equipment in the world, as well as the developments introduced by our forces to equipment from the West and the East.

Lt. Gen. al-Shadhili explained that the Air Defense Forces have an ongoing role in both peace and war. He said: Reconnaissance flights are conducted daily in our skies to detect any threats and to get a better picture of the situation in the air to be ready to repulse any aggression in our skies. He said our forces are also developing Eastern missiles further with the aim of defeating electronic jamming devices and enhancing the missiles' efficiency. He added that an air-to-air missile has been developed and the radar battalions command center has been automatically linked with eastern and western radar systems. In addition, airborne warning devices send information about the air situation automatically to ground stations.

Libya

Syrian Ministers Discuss Economic Ties, Trade

JN2806201290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Jun (SANA)—A meeting was held here yesterday of the Syrian Arab delegation comprised by Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Khalid al- Mahayini, minister of finance; and Dr. Muhammad al-Sharif, Central Bank governor; the Sudanese ministers of agriculture and finance; and the Libyan secretaries of agrarian and economic reform and the treasury.

The ministers made a comprehensive review of economic and trade relations among the three countries and the means to enhance and develop these relations in the service of their mutual interests, in order to achieve their aims of coordination and integration in agricultural areas through dependence on their own resources and financial capabilities and natural resources.

The Syrian Arab delegation left Tripoli this afternoon at the conclusion of a 4-day visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Mauritania

Government Names New Officials

AB2806191590 Paris AFP in French 1703 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 27 Jun (AFP)—Mr. Ahmedou Ould Sidi, formerly secretary of state for Maghrebian affairs, has been appointed minister of commerce, handicrafts and tourism, it was announced from official sources today in Nouakchott. He replaces Mrs. Khadijetou Mint Ahmed, who died on 13 June of heart attack. There are no women in the new Mauritanian government.

Mr. Ahmedou Ould Sidi is replaced at the secretariat for Maghrebian affairs by Mr. Ahmed Ould Sid'Ahmed, formerly ambassador to Cairo, the same sources add.

Colonel Mohamed Ould Sid'Ahmed Lekhal, formerly deputy chief of general staff of the Mauritanian Army, has been appointed to the government. He replaces Mr. Hamoud Ould Ely at the Rural Development Ministry. The latter will become an adviser at the presidency.

Morocco

Libya's Al-Talhi Arrives for Talks

LD2706173990 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Jadallah 'Azzur al-Talhi, secretary general of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison in the Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah arrived in

Morocco before noon today for a visit of several days to Morocco to take part in the work of the mixed Moroccan-Libyan commission. [passage omitted]

Joint Commission Meets

LD2806142190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The proceedings of the first meeting of the Higher Joint Moroccan-Libyan Commission began at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. The Moroccan delegation at this meeting was headed by Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, in the presence of Moulay Driss Alaoui M'Daghri, secretary of state for Arab Maghreb affairs. The Libyan side was headed by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Minister Meets With Laraki

Delivers Al-Hirawi Message

LD2806173790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] This morning Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki received in his office 'Ali al-Khalil, the Lebanese finance minister and acting foreign minister. The guest conveyed a verbal message for his majesty from his excellency the president of the Lebanese republic, Mr. Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The meeting was attended by Ahmed Cherkaoui, minister of state for foreign affairs; Sami Qurunful, Lebanon's ambassador in Rabat; and close aides of the prime minister.

Meets With Filali

LD2806174990 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The Lebanese issue and the problem of Lebanese expatriates formed the focus of a meeting today at the Foreign Ministry between Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and 'Ali al-Khalil, Lebanese minister of finance and acting foreign minister, who was accompanied by the Lebanese ambassador to Morocco, Sami 'Umar Qurunful.

At the beginning of the meeting, the two sides reviewed the latest development in the Lebanese arena and also the work of the higher tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon. Morocco is a member of that committee together with Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

Stemming from this, the two sides focussed on Morocco's important role and its continuing efforts within this committee to find a lasting settlement to the Lebanese crisis. In addition, the meeting discussed the question of Lebanese expatriates. The two ministers reviewed the Lebanese point of view and the type of assistance from Morocco in this matter.

Abdellatif Filali reiterated Morocco's support and backing for Lebanon and for all its causes.

Benin's Kerekou Comments on Reconciliation

AB2906225190 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Excerpts] President Mathieu Kerekou has just returned home after attending the 16th France-Africa summit at La Baule, France. The major event at this summit was the reconciliation between Moroccan King Hassan II and President Mathieu Kerekou. The first evidence of this reconciliation was the luncheon that brought together the two leaders on the Moroccan king's yacht in the Bay of Nantes. The second was that a Royal Air Maroc Boeing-727 was put at the disposal of the Beninese delegation to return to Cotonou.

Before returning to our economic capital, however, the head of state made a technical stopover in Agadir, the third Moroccan city but the leading city for tourism. [passage omitted]

President Mathieu Kerekou answered a number of questions from Moroccan newsmen. He spoke of the conditions under which the reconciliation between him and the Moroccan king occurred and expressed satisfaction with this achievement. He also expressed the hope that Africa would continue making progress and that peace would be achieved between Western Sahara and Morocco. Let us listen to the president:

[Begin Kerekou recording] (?Through his gesture), King Hassan II has (?shown) the French people as well as to the Beninese, African, and all the peoples of the world that Morocco and Benin have at last come together again and reconciled. Therefore, our stopover today in your beautiful city is a demonstration of the desire of the two peoples and two states to henceforth walk hand in hand. [passage omitted]

Following this reconciliation, we express the hope that King Hassan II will return to the OAU and that the Moroccan Kingdom and Western Sahara will reconcile so that African peoples' unity will be strengthened. We are told that Africa is losing ground, but we are convinced that with what is being done in Morocco, we are on the right path. In any event, we are leaving your beautiful regional capital with the feeling that we have succeeded in achieving a historic goal at La Baule. Henceforth, bilateral relations are good. Thank you. [end recording]

Sudan

SPLA Says Iranian Troops Train NIF Cadres

EA2706225590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Reliable sources informed Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] that the National Islamic Front [NIF] has embarked on its security and military cadres' training at (Basandran) Training Center of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards with the help and supervision of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

The NIF cadres, besides military and security training, are also being given lectures on the experiences of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards at countering the Iranian internal opposition.

RCC Member Khalifah Hails Franco-African Summit

EA2806124690 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 27 June (SUNA)—Member of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] and chairman of the national conference on peace issues, Col Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has described the Franco-African summit conference held recently in France as "successful". He said in a press statement yesterday that he discussed during his visit to France the Sudanese-French relations. He also reviewed with the leaders of the countries taking part in the conference progress of bilateral relations with these states.

Tunisia

Karoui Meets With France's Rocard

LD2206224790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Hamed Karoui, prime minister, conveyed today to his French counterpart, Michel Rocard, the satisfaction of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, at the development of French-Tunisian relations. An authorized Tunisian source has said that the two prime ministers reviewed during their conversation this morning at the Matingon, bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction at the level of this cooperation. They confirmed in this context the need to steadily consolidate this cooperation, especially through the development of private investment and participation. The source said the conversation also dealt with the issue of indebtedness, and pointed out that the prime minister stressed the need to find a solution to this problem within the context of the proposals made by President Ben Ali at the various meetings and at several international quarters. [passage omitted]

KYODO Reports Tunisia's Warning to U.S.

Khelil Comments on Dialogue Suspension

WA2906114890

For Tokyo KYODO's report on Tunisian Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil's visit to Toyko, including a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama in which Khelil warned the U.S. decision to cease dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization will encourage "extremist elements" in the Middle East, see the Japan section of the 28 June East Asia DAILY REPORT.

Bahrain

Air Transportation Agreement Signed With Brunei

JN2706180890 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Manama, June 27 (GNA)—Bahrain and the Sultanate of Brunei signed here today an agreement to organise air transportation between the two countries.

The agreement was signed by Bahraini Minister of Development and Industry and Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi and Brunei's Minister of Communication Dato Hu Zakaria Haj Sulaiman.

According to the agreement, the royal Brunei Airlines will not [as received] arrange flights to the Bahrain international airport, al-Shirawi said.

The agreement comes within other agreements signed by Bahrain with 30 other states in the air transportation field.

Kuwait

U.S.-Israeli 'Conspiracy' Said Tantamount to War

LD2906092690 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0650 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Jun (KUNA)—In its editorial today the Kuwaiti paper Al-RA'Y AL-'AMM attacks the constantly hostile attitude of the United States toward the Arabs and their rights. It describes the U.S.-Zionist harmony in conspiring against the Arab issues as tantamount to a real war on the part of the United States against the Arabs.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM ridicules the concept of the United States on human rights which applies only to Jewish rights as is the case with Soviet Jews.

The paper says that Washington's aim behind the compulsory immigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine, after the United States closed its doors, is to give the Zionist state the human element that always has been a case for suffering. The aim further is to make this human element a powerful claw against the unity and the cohesion of the Arabs and in order to strive vigorously to oppress and divide them.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM adds: What the United States is doing in the way of military, financial, and manpower support for the Zionist state is something that constitutes a real war against the Arabs. The United States also seeks to prevent the Arabs uniting, progressing, and assuming the reins of science. This is in order to serve its aims and objectives in the area, which has strategic resources.

The paper says, in concluding its editorial, that both Tel Aviv and Washington have an aim that unites them in their declared and undeclared war against the Arabs, or to be precise, against the Palestinians, who do not seem to be included in the human rights policy Washington has been championing because this is confined only to the rights of the Jews, who are human beings whereas the rest have not quite reached that level.

Minister Praises EEC Statement on Settlements

LD2806111390 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, said Kuwait followed with satisfaction the statement issued by the summit of European Economic Community [EEC] leaders, which was recently held in Dublin, especially their reaffirmation of the EEC's opposition to the Israeli policy of settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement to KUNA, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added that, while appreciating that stance which is in harmony with the responsibilities of the states of the EEC toward the efforts aiming to bring about a just peace in the Middle East, we sincerely urge the leaders of the community to make every effort to implement the contents of the [summit] statement.

Amir Names 25 National Council Appointees

LD2806112290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1007 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 28 (KUNA)—An amiri decree issued Thursday named the 25 appointees for the National Council which together with the 50 members elected last June 10 form the interim four-year Council.

The decree, signed by his highness the amir and goes into effect as of today, named the 25 appointed members as follows:

1) Badr Jasim al-Yaqub—state minister for National Council Affairs
2) Salom al-Sabah al-Salim—interior minister
3) 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdllah al-Awadhi—state minister for cabinet affairs.
4) 'Abd-al-Wahhab Sulayman al-Fawzan—public health minister
5) Fahd 'Abdallah al-Hasawi—state minister for municipal affairs
6) Ibrahim Hamud Mubarak Buraysli
7) Jasim Ahmad Jasim al-Nasif
8) Jasim Muhammad Ahmad al-Bahar
9) Habib Ibrahim Shayban
10) Sa'ud Muhammad al-Faris
11) 'Abd-al-Latif Ahmad al-Bahar
12) 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad al-Ahmad
13) 'Abdallah Jasim al-Hajri
14) 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hamad al-Asusi
15) 'Abdallah 'Umar 'Abdallah al-'Umar
16) 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhammad Rafi Ma'rafi
17) 'Isa 'Abd-al-Mushin Sayyid al-Rafa'i

18) Muhammad Ahmad al-'Abd-al-Jalil
19) Muhammad Bargis Muhammad al-Bargis
20) Muhammad Khalid al-Masha'n
21) Muhammad Sulayman Ibrahim al-Haddad
22) Misha'l 'Abd-al-Latif al-Habishi
23) [name indistinct]
24) Yaqub Salih al-Sharhan
25) Yusif Sultan al-Majid

Oman

Minister Leaves for Tehran With Offer of Aid

JN2706151690 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Health Minister Dr. 'Ali Bin-Muhammad Bin-Musa and his delegation left for Tehran today. They were sent by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to extend condolences over the victims of the earthquake that hit northwest Iran recently. He will also express the readiness of the Sultan's government to provide further aid to the Iranian Government and to the victims of the earthquake.

He was seen off upon departure by ranking Health Ministry officials and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Muscat.

Minister 'Abdallah Criticizes Arab Politics

JN2806191590 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 26 Jun 90 p 13

[Interview with Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, by 'Asim Rashwan in Muscat; date not given]

[Text] [Rashwan] Allow me to start at the end. The United States decided to suspend the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue in response to Israeli wishes. For its part, the PLO decided to freeze its peace initiative. How do you view the dimensions of the situation and the future course of events?

['Abdallah] I believe that the suspension—both in regard to the United States and the Palestinians—is a technical rather than political issue. The political issue can be viewed from a different angle. It has different dimensions. The method followed by one side is, in essence, different from that pursued by the other. The United States views peace from a different perspective than the PLO's. The PLO regards itself as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and therefore, there can be no alternative to establishing the Palestinian state. The United States views this as somewhat unrealistic; it says that under the current circumstances in the Middle East, this thing cannot be achieved.

Therefore, from the very start the dialogue was not harmonious. In fact, all parties involved face a psychological rather than a political problem. In political science, every political problem has a solution. This has been the case since the creation. Indeed, a solution was found to World War II. The reunification of Germany now is part of this solution.

However, concerning the Palestinian problem there is a psychological rather than a political problem. If we overcome this psychological problem, we will be able to approach the political problem. This requires a psychiatrist.

[Rashwan] Do you mean to say that there is a psychological barrier between the two sides that should be overcome, or that there is an atmosphere of doubts and mistrust between the two sides that should be cleared?

['Abdallah] By psychological problem I do not mean that the Americans will not be able to meet the Palestinians half way. From the political viewpoint, there are no differences over self-determination as a principle, either in South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, or elsewhere. Self-determination and human rights are UN principles upheld by all states. However, both emotionally and psychologically, the Americans cannot go along with this as far as the Palestinians are concerned. At the same time, the PLO is now in such a psychological state that it cannot abandon something called the Palestinian state, something called the official representation of the Palestinian people, or something called the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They cannot abandon these principles that are now recognized by the Arab League.

Therefore, in my view, the question is psychological rather than political and this relieves Israel, which will continue to suppress and deport the Palestinians, bring in more Jewish immigrants, obtain international assistance, and so on.

[Rashwan] You said that the problem needs a psychiatrist. Will this psychiatrist treat both sides or one side only?

['Abdallah] I am talking about the problem itself, the Palestinian problem. It needs a psychiatrist and not a politician to tackle it from all sides.

We are extremely disturbed by what we hear about the people in the occupied territory. Thirty months have elapsed since the intifadah began. They are in a continuous state of siege, day and night. They are being repressed and are subjected to psychological torture.

[Rashwan] What can the Arabs and the Palestinians do about what is happening in the occupied territory?

['Abdallah] Money cannot solve everything; the problem is not only to support the intifadah. The problem requires courageous initiatives to save what we can of the Arab territory that we are still claiming. I think that this is necessary—otherwise our fate will be the same fate

we have faced over the last 20 years. We are given opportunities that do not agree with our psychological state so we reject them. Then we seek the same opportunities and do not find them. Then we are given other opportunities that do not agree with our psychological state and we reject them, and so on.

Therefore, the question needs complete reconsideration. However, the brothers in the Palestinian leadership know better. All that we say is based on what we hear and see and what we are told.

In any case, since the American-Palestinian dialogue began, we as Arab states, and I as a minister of state for foreign affairs in Oman, have been asked to support the Palestinian cause. I do no know what happened in the dialogue. I do not know more than the newspapers report. But God knows what is going on. Therefore, I cannot pass judgment on the dialogue.

[Rashwan] Does this apply to all Arab foreign ministers?

['Abdallah] I am speaking for myself.

In general, the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, are conducting a comprehensive reassessment of everything. They are reconsidering Palestinian policy. Through this reconsideration, we hope that they will identify a way to save what can be saved of the Arab territories that we claim.

[Rashwan] In light of recent political developments in Israel and the formation of what can be called a Shamir-led "war cabinet," do you believe that there is still a chance for peace?

['Abdallah] The issue is not peace, war, or politics. The real issue is that we the Arabs always attach great importance to any Israeli development. We always view Israeli developments as unalterable realities. Hence, our policies do not go beyond the confines of "reactions." However, we are doing nothing to change. If we seek to improve our lot, we have to start by changing ourselves.

[Rashwan] Shamir demanded direct negotiations with all Arab states. What is your comment on this?

['Abdallah] By God, if Israeli Prime Minister Shamir believes, in his own way of viewing things, that he has to negotiate with the Arabs, "this would be viewed as something natural" because he believes that his dispute is with all Arabs. If you were in his shoes, you would do the same thing. According to the Israeli perspective, this is something natural. However, the issue does not only concern negotiations, as the process of conducting negotiations is an easy task. But there are basics for negotiations. Negotiations become possible and natural when these basics and principles are there. But there is nothing called "negotiations by remote control."

I said this a few years ago. I said that "there is no other option for the Palestinians and Israelis but to sit at the negotiating table." At the time, all hell broke loose on us. They [not further identified] said that the Sultanate of Oman recognized Israel. Nowadays, we want to negotiate with the Israelis "but they will not accept this" because they believe that the Arabs' psychological state serves their ideas. What then can push them toward negotiations?

[Rashwan] The Arabs' psychological state and the unmistakable, clear disunity plaguing the Arabs are caused by the lack of a unified position. How can we overcome this situation?

['Abdallah] I do not know how we can overcome this situation. However, if we take the basics, realities, and historical experiences into account—if we take all this into account—we would say that the owners of the cause are the ones who must shoulder the major responsibility in this regard.

Our Palestinian brothers have not so far agreed on a unified perspective. They have not agreed on whether they must opt for negotiations and peacemaking or whether they must adopt a hardline position and go to war. In regard to war, I do not mean the buildup of armies against other armies, because the current situation is a war situation.

Consequently, the issue is not clear to the Arab states. And the Arab nation cannot lend unflinching support for the Palestine question unless the Palestinians themselves espouse a unified stance—a consistent, sound, and genuine stance.

The Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are currently united in their resistance to the Israeli occupation regardless of the existence of various organizations there. The situation there as well as the living conditions under occupation require the existence of various organizations. As for Palestinian political leaders outside the occupied territories, I believe that they have not totally agreed on how to tackle the Palestine question. They now have a problem with the Arab states that needs a peaceful solution. Some Palestinians only heed the desires and urgings of Arab states, sometimes unwillingly. That is why we see this "failure" which happens from time to time. Numerous and conflicting initiatives are being launched. Time passes and people get old. A new generation emerges and then we start from scratch.

Nowadays, Palestinian leaders are getting old. How long can we continue the march? So, he who has a problem must solve it. The world has changed. You cannot insist on having all that you want if the international climate is not propitious. The world has changed right now. It is the world of detente. It is no longer the world of blocs with which we lived in conflict. We laid emphasis on these blocs and forgot to focus on our own realities, facts, and resources. Consequently, when these blocs collapsed, we too collapsed. We have come to a state of disequilibrium, neither with the East nor with the West, and not even in our own natural place.

[Rashwan] Do you see the next summit set for Cairo adding anything useful to the Arab cause in general and to common Arab action?

['Abdallah] There are many Arab issues. If you mean the Palestinian cause—it being a key issue—I do not see anything unusal developing over the coming five months...! This is because political leaders are less than prepared, and world politics are far ahead of us. I do not see anything happening unless the Palestinian leaders can come up with something new, and they put on a new dress that we have not seen yet. Only then can we expect something new to happen, and this does not seem likely.

[Rashwan] Does this explain why Oman is not fully convinced with joint Arab action, as the level of your country's representation at Arab summits suggests?

['Abdallah] This is not true. Indeed, the reverse is the case. We firmly believe that salvaging the Arab nation lies in joint Arab action. Take for example our relations with Iraq, which are excellent—indeed more so than many think. The failure of His Majesty Sultan Qabus to turn up for the Baghdad summit has not affected these relations. There is an invitation from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn for his majesty the sultan to visit Iraq. Both are working on improving their relations still further.

Regarding Arab summits, we have always argued that as a convention of the highest level, an Arab summit ought to be well-prepared. We also have to be "civilized people." A summit cannot conceivably work out solutions to all problems in a matter of days. The argument that the issues that foreign ministers fail to agree on may be referred to the summit is a "backward theory"!! It is a throwback to the fifties. The world of today cannot be built on such foundations—hurling our problems at the leaders. A summit must, therefore, be adequately prepared. There must be prior agreement on the main issues. The question is not one of going to the summit and delivering speeches and talking to each other, and then making decisions to satisfy each other while each making concessions to satisfy others. The question of each of us satisfying others must come to an end. We must ask ourselves: How can we maintain our existence in the face of sweeping world changes?

The world views us as a nation that came into being on unrealistic bases and this reality must change! The world views the Arabs as a handful of people in the Arabian Peninsula who are not, strictly speaking, a nation or an entity! If such is the scale of the dangers facing the Arab nation and the Arab world, an Arab summit must be well prepared. The Arabs are not in agreement on how to confront dangers. There is not a problem between two Arab countries that the summit can solve. All our problems are with non-Arabs. So, only half the solution is up to us.

Arab foreign ministers have to sit for months to prepare for an Arab summit. Is it not their business to attend to the higher interests of the Arab nation? It will not do for Arab foreign ministers to take just three days to lay the groundwork for a summit. We are thus putting the credibility of our leaders to a severe, unfair test. We have found from experience that whatever decisions have been made by Arab summits have lacked conviction, and thus amount to little more than a "sheaf of papers in the Arab League."

This has got to change, especially since life does not begin and end overnight. It would have been better for us to make one decision per year, since it would have been the result of real agreement. We would have had five meaningful decisions in five years.

This is the Omani view of joint Arab action. We want it to be meaningful and real. We do not want the credibility of our leaders to plummet so low.

You as journalists heard after Baghdad how people viewed the summit. It was a good effort. However, the mode of preparations cannot be discounted. Views differed on the outcome of the Baghdad summit.

The issue does not concern the venue of the summit—whether the summit should be held in Baghdad, Cairo, or anywhere else. All Arab capitals welcome Arab leaders. Any host country is expected to do its best to help render the summit a success.

This one took place in Baghdad. There, the guests were met with unparalleled hospitality, friendly reception, and genuine happiness. There, the Iraqi people gave vent to their real feelings of happiness because they were given the chance to welcome Arab leaders.

As for President Saddam, he attempted to use his experience and adroitness to make the conference an effective one. However, "everything has its own prerequisites."

Besides, Iraq was not the country that called for the summit. Iraq only hosted the summit. As for the call for the summit, it came from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. We do not support extraordinary summits. We hope that the Baghdad summit will be the last extraordinary summit.

[Rashwan] Everybody, including King Husayn, is viewing the future of Jordan with growing concern. In your view, how can the dangers targeting the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan be confronted and contained?

['Abdallah] Under certain circumstances and conditions, one might get carried away by imagination, and this might make one reach the verge of despair. As for Jordan, it reached this state because of its total failure to reach a solution or an agreement with Israel, and also because Israel now has the will and a clear-cut scheme that it seeks to implement in phases. That is why we became desperate over the possibility of maintaining Jordan's entity as a state. However, we believe that this situation "will be overcome." I do not believe that one can view this historical phase as one in which "states will

disappear." Regimes might be toppled. But the disappearance of states is only possible in war. I do not think that Israel is so stupid as to wage a war against Jordan to add the east bank of the River Jordan to the other occupied territories.

I believe that Jordan is going through a difficult phase, economically and psychologically speaking. That is true. However, I do not believe that Jordan will disappear. This is out of the question, because the political ingredients of such a situation are nonexistent. And even the conditions for the establishment of the so-called "alternative homeland" are also nonexistent. It is not possible for the Palestinians to establish a state in Jordan, as Jordan is suffering from an acute economic problem—unemployment.

Our Palestinian brothers are living in Jordan. That is true. However, this does not mean that they will be a substitute for the Jordanian state. This is illogical. If there is anyone entertaining the idea of creating an alternative state for himself in Jordan, then he "must be dreaming." He would be giving Israel the excuse for occupying further Arab lands.

[Rashwan] We are well aware that the sultanate was in the forefront of the Arab states that extended financial aid totaling $5 million to Jordan. Do you believe that the financial aid given to Jordan is adequate? Do you believe that it will enable Jordan to surmount this difficult phase?

[`Abdallah] Economic problems are major problems facing Jordan. Jordan is not facing political problems. It is facing crushing economic problems. Hence, Jordan must find ways to resolve these problems.

[Rashwan] The Sultanate of Oman has played key roles in Arab-Iranian mediation efforts. How far have your efforts to mediate between Iran and Saudi Arabia reached? What about the Egyptian prisoners of war held in Iran? And what about your efforts to advance the "chilly peace" existing between Iraq and Iran?

[`Abdallah] First, we cannot speak about mediation in the sense usually understood by people to mean negotiations by proxy. As a matter of fact, the sultanate maintains good ties with Iran and other parties in the region. This mediation effort was dictated by the stalemate in efforts to implement the UN Security Council resolution and also by the failure to reach a comprehensive agreement on the differences resulting from the Iraq-Iran war.

It is natural for us to play a positive rather than a negative role in this regard. Our role must be acceptable to both sides. All that we did is that we acquainted ourselves with the facts and issues that might constitute the obstacle preventing the attainment of an agreement—or at least—a conception of this obstacle.

Hence, our role had nothing to do with mediation in the traditional sense of the word. By virtue of the fact that we maintain ties with both sides, we sought to identify the problems that have continued to constitute an obstacle preventing the materialization of a common understanding of this situation. When we understood the situation well, we had to consider our ideas with the brothers in Iran and Iraq and to discuss with them how these problems can be resolved.

I believe—and this is my unshakable conviction—that the main obstacle was that both sides lacked the foundations on which confidence can be built. War between the two sides continued for eight years. It was a costly war. Therefore, it was not easy for either one to accept and trust the statements made by the other.

Moreover, what is relayed to each side about the other one might not be "an honest representation of facts." It might contain some additions, omissions, or even some sort of distortion.

[Rashwan] You mean there are parties with ulterior motives?

[`Abdallah] I am not saying that. I mean the failure of mediators to get the real feel of things. In any case, this stage is behind us now, and the two sides are exchanging letters; each country is sending an envoy to talk things over directly. We hope they will work out the right agreement that may serve as the foundation for serious measures in the future. The two countries realize that they have a lot of interests in common, but they also know that both have sustained considerable losses in the war. Neither is sparing itself in the interest of getting around this situation. Every time a minor problem arose, Oman has sought to speak to the two parties.

As for countries other than Iraq and Iran, whenever a problem crops up that may have repercussions for the Gulf region, we move to have it sorted out as long as we maintain good relations with the parties involved. We invoke our good relations for the good of the region and the parties.

I assure you that there is a common and strong desire on the part of all parties in the region to solve all problems and build up mutual confidence and promote cooperation and reciprocal respect and noninterference. This applies as much to relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran as it does to Iraq and Iran. These principles are not to be compromised.

[Rashwan] Is it fair to say that the gap between Iraq and Iran has virtually been bridged?

[`Abdallah] It would be an oversimplification to say this. It is possible to say, however, that the two sides have begun to bridge the gap, and it remains to be seen how soon they will succeed. You have no idea of the scale of relations between the Iranian and Iraqi people.

[Rashwan] What about relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran? Would you say they are improving?

['Abdallah] That is what we hope is happening, of course. Statements by the custodian of the two holy mosques indicate that Saudi Arabia is anxious to settle differences. Also, statements by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani point in that direction. And there are contacts between the two sides.

[Rashwan] Have the contacts produced anything tangible?

['Abdallah] They have produced something, but the picture is likely to be different next year at the latest.

[Rashwan] How do you rate the chances of a new flare-up in the Gulf as a result of the continuing state of no war and no peace?

['Abdallah] That is extremely unlikely, as people are all too aware of the potential tragedies. The people who are making these predictions are not knowledgeable about the region. The current state of affairs cannot be called a "temporary truce." It is a state of no war and no peace that will lead to peace.

[Rashwan] What about Egyptian prisoners?

['Abdallah] There is no problem here, and I wonder why the press is making such an issue out of it. Egyptian prisoners are part of the POW problem between Iraq and Iran. It must be made clear that this is not a problem between Iran and Egypt. There is no problem between them over the question of the Egyptian prisoners. It is a humanitarian issue, and some of them have been released. It is a problem for the Red Cross to address.

[Rashwan] Are there Omani efforts in this regard?

['Abdallah] I do not think efforts should be made here, since this is not a political problem; it is one of war. Both sides hold prisoners, and I do not see the problem regarding the Egyptian prisoners.

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom Expected To Order More U.S. Tanks

LD2806125490 Kuwait KUNA in English 1218 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] London, Jun 28 (KUNA)—The Saudi Arabian government may increase its order of U.S. Abrams tanks from 315 to 700, according to a report in this week's issue of JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY.

The specialist magazine, which is published in London, said the initial sale of 315 U.S. Abrams MIA2 tank to the Kingdom was held up by the Saudis when the cost escalated recently.

That followed a decision by the U.S. to cut its production line for the U.S. Army, which raised the cost per tank from 3.1 to 5 million dollars, it was pointed out.

But the magazine cited Pentagon sources as saying Saudi Arabia is now expected to approve the sale shortly, following a recent visit to the Kingdom by the director of the U.S. Defence Security Assistance Agency, Charles Brown.

America has reportedly offered to reduce the cost per tank to 4.2 million dollars through contract and production schedule adjustments.

Saudi Arabia is reportedly seeking further cost reductions by increasing its initial order to fill its total requirement of between 600 and 700 tanks.

The Kingdom has originally intended to split the purchase between the Abrams and the lighter Brazilian-made "EE-T1 Osorio", the magazine noted.

Meanwhile, the cost could be lowered even further if the UK selects the Abrams to meet its own tank requirement, JANE's pointed out.

United Arab Emirates

Relief Missions Leave for Iran

JN2806165990 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Upon instructions from His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the head of state, and under the supervision of Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayan, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and president of the Red Crescent Society, two planes laden with relief assistance for the earthquake-stricken people have left for Iran within the relief airlift established by the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

Reporting this today, Society Vice President 'Id Khulayf al-Muhayri said that the two planes, part of the Society's relief airlift, are carrying 50 tonnes of food, medicine, blankets, tents, and clothes, which will be directly transferred to the stricken areas in northern and western Iran. Other relief planes are being prepared. Tomorrow, the fifth plane will leave directly for the stricken areas.

His excellency said he was deeply grateful to UAE citizens and their brothers who reside in this country for the aid and the contributions they are offering for the earthquake victims.

Media Instructed To Improve Treatment of Iran

LD2906090990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0838 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 29 (KUNA)—The Iraqi authorities have instructed its mass media to stop all forms of press campaign against Iran, press reports said here Friday.

Daily AL-WATAN, in a dispatch from Baghdad, quoted well-informed Iraqi sources as saying that Iraq's dealing with news concerning Iran has started to take "a new formula that is completely different than previously practiced."

The new trend, which came 23 months after both countries halted their eight years of war, followed the first message by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Iranian leadership a few months ago, the paper said.

The daily said the Iraqi mass media resumed reporting normal names and surnames of Iranian officials and leaderships.

The U.N. secretary general is scheduled to meet with Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers in Geneva next Tuesday to resume peace negotiations.

In a friendly gesture, Iraq sent human aid and a cable of condolences to the Iranian authorities for last week's earthquake disaster that killed 50,000 Iranians.

Bulgarian Minister Bashikarov Visits

Received by Sa'dun Hammadi

JN2806131390 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 28, INA—Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy premier, met here today the Bulgarian foreign economic relations minister and an accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, bilateral ties and means necessary for bolstering economic cooperation were reviewed.

Ramadan 'Happy' With Relations

JN2806144690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1058 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has received Bulgarian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Petur Bashikarov.

During the meeting, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan received a written message from Bulgarian Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov dealing with bilateral cooperation.

Ramadan told Bashikarov he was happy with the state of relations between Iraq and Bulgaria, and that he expects them to improve still further.

Olympic Committee To Attend Arab Games in Syria

JN2906091090 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Jun 90 p 13

[Text] An official source at the Iraqi National Olympic Committee has made the following statement:

The statement issued by the Iraqi National Olympic Committee on boycotting the Arab games represents our committee's purely technical opinion.

In accordance with the instructions of our political leadership on the importance of participating in Arab groupings, in light of pan-Arab interests in closing the ranks of the nation and uniting its policy, and in response to the requests of the brothers led by sisterly Saudi Arabia, the Olympic Committee announces its participation in the Arab games to be held in Syria in November.

The Olympic Committee issued a statement on 23 June on the motives and reasons for its decision to boycott the Arab games. The statement notes that the games are taking place at an inappropriate time because Asian countries will be preparing for the Asian games.

Assembly Urges Resumption of U.S.-PLO Dialogue

JN2806134790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA)—The National Assembly has warned against the dangers inherent in the U.S. Administration's recent decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO.

In a statement issued here today, the Assembly described this decision as a new move in the U.S. orientation in favor of the Zionist entity and one that pushes events in the region toward increased tension.

The Assembly said that it was hoping the U.S. dialogue with the PLO would deal with major problems involving the termination of the Israeli occupation and enable the Palestinian Arab people to exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state in a manner consistent with the international responsibility of the United States and the establishment of a just, durable peace in the region.

The Assembly exlained that important circles in regional and international parliamentary unions share this hope and assessment of the dialogue.

In its statement, the Assembly warned against the regional and international consequences of this decision, and stressed the need to reconsider the decision and resume the dialogue in a substantial manner to make a serious contribution to international efforts aimed at finding a peaceful and just solution to the Middle East problem.

Decision Said To Support Israel

JN2306071590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jun (INA)—AL-THAWRAH states that President George Bush's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO means the United States is being driven by Zionist desires and submitting to the Zionist lobby. In an article published today, the newspaper notes that the U.S. decision is very serious for the region and that the United States is not concerned at all with restoring stability to the region.

AL-THAWRAH describes the decision as irresponsbile and supportive of Israel's expansionist and aggressive agenda.

Papers Criticize Pro-Israel U.S. Policy Stance

'Heightening' Regional Tension

JN2806111890 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 28, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily said that the U.S. policy starting from Nixon's rule until George Bush's has been based on pressure, foot-dragging and coercion just to protect the U.S. interests, especially in the Arab homeland.

In an article published today, the daily said that the U.S. Administration's stances towards the Arab-Zionist conflict could only serve the U.S. interests with their strategic, economic and moral dimensions.

The daily pointed out that the United States had used the Zionist entity as a tool to safeguard its interests in the region, referring to the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, supporting Iran during the 8-year war with Iraq, launching an air raid on Tammuz Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981 and on the Palestine Liberation Organisation headquarters in Tunis, let alone Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan's initiatives and Camp David accord.

It added that out of its hostile tendency, the United States was unwilling to make any step towards peace talks, confirming that heightening tension in the region could bring greater interests.

The paper stressed that the United States tried to create an entity representing scattered sects of Jews all around the world under the illusion of Zionism on an Arab land, bypassing the course of historical and social movement which contradicted the possibility of peaceful coexistence with the Zionists.

U.S. Said To Lack Independence

JN2406102090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the record of U.S.-Zionist ties makes it clear that those who care for Zionists within the U.S. Administration and the decisionmaking bodies in Washington are more Zionist than the Zionists.

In an article published today, the paper adds that the record of these ties confirms beyond any shadow of doubt that Washington has always lacked a balanced policy.

The paper indicates that a review of the course of the U.S. policy once again shows an erosion in U.S. credibility and the absence of any real chances for reliance on a balanced U.S. role in the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The paper describes the U.S. Administration in this case as a deceptive broker, adding that the Arabs can never trust Washington as a mediator, because its pro-Zionist bias can be seen daily.

The paper goes on to say: How can Washington serve as a broker while it continues to maintain its role as the staunchest supporter of the Zionist entity and the unswerving guarantor of the superiority of this entity, even if this superiority was to result in the continued pursuit of aggressive policies by the Zionist entity and the nurturing of a drive for expansion within this entity's circles.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that the U.S. quarters were not content with mere material support. No, they went beyond this support to provide the Zionists with political backing—something that confirms the U.S. Administration's lack of independent policy vis-a-vis the Arab-Zionist conflict, the paper concludes.

Transport Minister Leaves for Morocco

JN2406113090 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 24, INA—Mr Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications left for Morocco this morning heading a delegation on a several-day visit.

In a statement to INA before departure, Mr Hamzah said he would discuss with Moroccan officials aspects of boosting bilateral relations and exchange expertise in fields of land and sea transport, civil aviation and railways.

Correction to No Agreement in Waters Meeting

JN2806112790

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "No Agreement Reached in Waters Sharing Meeting," published in the 28 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 16

Column one, second paragraph, only sentence make read: ...cubic meters a second to no less than 700 cubic meters a second. (changing "minute" to "second")

Shamir To Comment After Bush Reads Letter

TA2806170990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the U.S. Administration must believe that we are sincere in our desire for peace. The State of Israel is taking a great risk, and there are red lines it shall not cross. Regarding the letter sent to President Bush, the prime minister said he will discuss it only after it has been read in Washington. The prime minister was addressing the closing session of the Jewish Agency assembly in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports:

[Begin recording] [Kohen] The prime minister said today that the support extended to the terrorist organizations by Arab countries serves as proof that they have not accepted the fact of Israel's existence. We are sincere in our desire for peace, but it is the State of Israel that is taking the risks, and this fact must not be ignored.

[Shamir] The U.S. Administration must become convinced that we are sincere in our aspiration for peace and in our desire to move forward on our peace initiative. The responsibility for our future, however, for our fate, and for the security of our country, lies—in the final analysis—on our shoulders.

[Kohen] After Shamir concluded his speech, correspondents asked him to reveal some details of the letter he sent President Bush.

[Shamir] I sent the letter to the U.S. President, and I would like him to be the first to read it. I will comment on the contents of the letter after I am sure that he has already read it.

[Kohen] Shamir also addressed the reports claiming that the Israeli Government opposes the inclusion of deportees and East Jerusalem Arabs in the Palestinian delegation.

[Shamir] These are interpretations made by people who know some details of the contents of the letter, but we will still have ample time for interpretations.

[Kohen] The prime minister spoke at length about Israel's relations with the EC. The European countries sold weapons to Saddam Husayn, who is now threatening Israel, and they also delivered technological equipment to the leaders of Syria and Libya. The prime minister called on the leaders of Europe to reevaluate their Middle East policy and adopt a more balanced political line. [end recording]

Baker Reaction to Shamir Termed 'Encouraging'

TA2906055890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Secretary Baker's initial response to Shamir's letter is almost surprising in its optimism. The secretary of state does not reject Israel's answer outright and is prepared to study it thoroughly. Israel finds Baker's announcement encouraging, but is somewhat concerned about the future. Political sources said that if Washington, after ending its study of the missive, reaches the conclusion it cannot advance the peace process, then pressure on Israel to provide clarifications or amendments will increase. It appears that the administration will not need too much time to get to the negative tone of the message.

It is the PLO that insists on the participation of Palestinians living outside the territories, deportees and others, in talks. This is the basis for the Palestinian demand for the right of return, a demand that endangers our very existence, Shamir wrote in his letter. If it is not clear from this what Israel's answer to Baker's question is, Foreign Minister David Levi, in a midweek interview, volunteered clarifications:

[Begin Levi recording] There are questions aimed at tripping us up. The issue of deportees is a PLO demand. The second question is Jerusalem Arabs, which means Jerusalem will from the outset become the main issue in the discussions. This is why both questions must not become the obstacle to the Israeli initiative. [end recording]

Although Jerusalem is not displaying too much optimism, it is possible that with much goodwill, the phrase "the composition of the delegation on a name by name basis" can serve as a basis for promoting the Middle East peace process.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 29 June in a related report by Larry Choler on pages 1 and 13 adds: "Israeli sources said they were hopeful that the administration, after fully assessing the letter, would find enough in it worth pursuing or clarifying to initiate another round of U.S.-Israeli discussions on the peace process. Discussions between the administration and Foreign Minister David Levi were especially desirable, they said."]

Commentary on Baker Reponse

TA2906132890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jun 90 p A1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Another Test of Baker's Patience"]

[Text] Several Cabinet members in Jerusalem sighed in relief yesterday upon hearing U.S. Secretary of State James Baker say that Yitzhaq Shamir's letter to President George Bush "is not black-and-white and requires careful study."

Jerusalem has learned from experience to treat seriously each and every word uttered by the secretary of state, and until last night it had been expecting the worst—in other words, to be dealt a resounding slap in the face from across the ocean, along the lines of "the prime minister's reply does not leave any opening whatsoever

for a continuation of the dialogue with Israel in a bid to promote the peace process."

Hence, on the face of it, Washington would seem to have gotten the message Shamir tried to deliver in his letter: If you find a way to clamp an airtight seal on the door to the PLO we will be able to discuss everything, including deportees and representatives living in East Jerusalem. Shamir did not just offhandedly reject their participation in the Palestinian delegation, but went on to explain exactly what it is that bothers him on the matter.

Baker is definitely entitled to infer from this—which is probably what he did—that if he removed those bothersome issues, a compromise would be found that would bring Israel to the Cairo meeting. For example, seeing that Israel fears that the deportees may be elected by the PLO, the United States may propose setting up a joint U.S.-Egyptian electoral body, followed by a public commitment that the PLO would neither directly nor indirectly participate in the election of deportees who are not members of any PLO institution whatsoever.

And, seeing that Shamir agrees to having representatives of the inhabitants of the territories "on a name-by-name basis," Baker could go back to the old proposal whereby anybody who had been entered in the population register by a certain date would be considered an inhabitant of the territories, even if he left the territories after that date and returned later. The problem of the representatives from East Jerusalem can be settled by means of a commitment to the effect that the United States objects to a Palestinian state—and, consequently, opposes the demand that Jerusalem should be its capital city.

In the wake of hints that the United States was losing its patience and was going to denounce Israel for having thwarted its own peace initiative, Shamir—almost at the last minute—threw Washington the end of a thread to hang on to. The administration probably realizes that under the new coalition conditions Shamir deserves to be praised for the courage he revealed in his letter, and understands that this is the maximum he can do.

Levi Hospitalized for Cardiological Examination

TA2806162490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi arrived at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem this afternoon and was hospitalized in the cardiology department. This was reported by our correspondent Rina Matzli'ah.

Sources in the foreign minister's bureau told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the minister had earlier made plans for an examination in Professor Gottesman's heart department, and would remain in hospital for only one day.

Condition 'Good'

TA2906072690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Minister Levi had a restful night at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. His condition is good, and it was announced that he will be released from the hospital early next week.

Finnish Minister Meets Officials, Comments

TA2806113190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Pertii Paasio this morning conferred with President Herzog, Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levi, and Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Paasio assured his hosts that Finland adheres to the principle of freedom of movement, but apparently did not give a concrete promise that Finland would serve as a way station for Soviet Jews on their way to Israel. Here is Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Finland is under very heavy pressure by the Arab countries not to act as a way station for Soviet Jews. This, apparently, is why Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Pertii Paasio was sent on a fact-finding mission to the Middle East. After his meetings with Foreign Minister Levi and Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, I asked him if he had asked for assurances that Soviet Jews would not be settled in the territories.

[Paasio] I hope I could make it very very clear that we expect this principle to be respected by the Israeli Government, and this was one of the topics we discussed just recently.

[Katzenell] Were you satisfied with the assurances you received from the Israeli representatives?

[Paasio] They told me that the immigration will not lead to the increase of the settlements in the territories, and this as such is a satisfactory answer.

[Katzenell] But asked whether Finland would act as a way station for Soviet Jews, and if so when, Paasio merely said: Finland would not depart from its principle of free passage, nor deny its benefits to Soviet Jews. There was no promise and no date.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 28 June adds: "Foreign Minister David Levi was invited to visit Finland. The invitation was extended to him during a meeting in Jerusalem with the visiting Finnish foreign minister. In the discussion, Minister Levi stressed the outstanding importance of good relations between Finland and Israel, mainly now when large waves of immigration are coming to Israel. Minister Levi added that Israel has no policy of settling immigrants in

the territories, and that the peace process must be advanced despite the threats of war coming from several Arab capitals."]

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Israel appreciates Finland's adherence to freedom of movement, and Israel's relations with Finland are very good. So, will Finland act as the transit point for Soviet Jews?, we asked him.

[Netanyahu] Well, I think that we are working at achieving an understanding on this, and I hope we will have one soon.

[Katzenell] Can I ask for your reaction, on this occasion, sir, to the threat by a leading senator to cut aid to Israel if even one new settlement is established in the territories?

[Netanyahu] I think that the position of the American Congress is determined by the American Congress and not by a single representative.

[Katzenell] So you are not worried about this?

[Netanyahu] Well, I did not say I am not worried, but I think that there is an understanding in the Congress of the United States and in the Government of the United States that Israel's policy is as I described it, and that unwarranted pressure on Israel in this matter is really unwarranted. [end recording]

Aime, Passio Meet With West Bank Palestinians

TA2906054390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] UN Under Secretary Jean-Claude Aime met yesterday in East Jerusalem with Palestinian notables from Judaea and Samaria. The group included former Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, the president of Bi'r Zayt University, and others. They called on the UN official to work towards preventing human rights violations in the territories. He said the way to do this is to bring to the area an international observer force.

Palestinian leaders also met with the visiting Finnish foreign minister. They called on him not to respond positively to Israel's request that Finland be a transit point for Soviet Jews coming to Israel, unless the Israeli Government stops settlement activity.

EEC To Appoint Representative for East Jerusalem

TA2906085190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] William Waldegrave, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, conferred in London yesterday with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, an Israeli Arab who is close to the PLO. Al-Tibi said the British diplomat told him that the EEC will appoint a permanent representative in East Jerusalem in November. The EEC wants to study first hand the human rights situation in the territories and to ascertain whether Soviet immigrants are being settled in the territories and East Jerusalem, Waldegrave told Dr. al-Tibi. He also said that Britain may soon invite 'Arafat to visit London. Our political correspondent Arye Golan provided the report.

Security Dispute Ends Direct Flights to Prague

TA2506110990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Tel Aviv—Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav yesterday suspended the inauguration of direct flights between Tel Aviv and Prague because of a dispute over security arrangements there.

A senior government source told THE JERUSALEM POST that a fortnight ago Israel and Czechoslovakia had concluded an agreement covering the security arrangements for El Al in Prague, but that last week Czechoslovakia changed its mind.

In line with Israel's long-standing policy, El Al will not fly there until it has an agreement covering security arrangements, while CSA, the Czech national carrier, will be not be allowed to fly here "until a solution is reached," a Transport Ministry statement said.

Over 100 persons have booked seats on El Al to Prague, a company spokesman said.

Israeli Arabs Polled on Political Preferences

TA2806145190 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 28 Jun 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] A poll conducted by USBU' AL-JADID magazine among the Palestinian Arab sector inside the Green Line, which will be published in the magazine's 36th issue on 1 July, indicates that many changes have taken place in the positions and thinking of Palestinians in Israel about numerous recent developments. These developments have had an impact on Israeli Arabs' support or lack of it for certain parties and also on their perception as to whether the intifadah might reach their towns and villages.

According to this poll, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] received 16.8 percent of the votes, equivalent to 3.1 Knesset seats. The Progressive List for Peace received 9.7 percent, or 1.8 seats, meaning that it managed to preserve its strength. As for the Arab Democratic Party, it lost ground, receiving 4.7 percent, or 0.86 percent of a seat. The Islamic Movement received 11.5 percent, or 2.1 seats—if it were running in the elections, because there are circles that oppose the idea. MAPAM [United Workers Party] received 4.6 percent, or 0.8 percent of a seat.

Support dropped for the Labor Party, which received 5.9 percent, or 1.1 seats. On the other hand, the influence of the Citizens Rights Movement increased. The party received 7 percent, or 1.3 seats. As for Shinuy, it received 2.2 percent, or 0.4 percent of a seat. The Likud received only 2.6 percent, equivalent to half a seat. The National

Religious Party received 1.1 percent, or 0.2 percent of a seat. Tzomet, Moledet, Tehiya, and .SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] received very slight percentages. Moreover, 31.3 percent, which represents 5.8 seats, refused to take part in the poll.

Agudat Yisra'el, Degel Hatora, and the Liberals failed to gain any votes. The Arab-Jewish list was supported by 30.6 percent and opposed by 44.8 percent, with 24.6 percent abstaining. Mostly for economic and national reasons, 79.7 percent opposed Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union. Some 26 percent believed that the intifadah would spread into the Green Line, 36.7 percent did not think so, and 37.3 percent abstained. About 25.53 percent supported a coalition comprising all the Arab parties. Also, 14 percent supported a coalition comprising the Progressive List for Peace, the Arab Democratic Party, and the Islamic Movement. The poll was conducted on 1,034 respondents personally from various Arab towns and villages, while the questionnaires were distributed at random.

Report Examines Settlement in Territories

TA2206150890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jun 90 p B2

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir no longer talks about establishing new settlements. As far back as a year ago, former Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told his U.S. counterpart James Baker that, if things depended exclusively on him, then that would be the end of additional settlements and from then on Israel would concentrate on developing those that already exist. Even such parties as Tehiya and the NRP [National Religious Party] no longer include in their repertoire the declarations about the right, or duty, to set up new Jewish settlements in the territories. During the 1988 coalition negotiations between the right-wing parties, the Likud was asked to undertake to establish a specific quota of new settlements a year. This time the annexes to the agreement do not include names of new settlements to be set up in the future. Furthermore, the agreements with the Likud do not stipulate the establishment of new settlements at all. They merely include a general and noncommittal statement on continuing to develop settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The alternative turn of phrase, which is currently commonly floating around, is fleshing out ['ibuy]. The prime minister says it is more important to flesh out the existing settlements, and the rightist parties suddenly exemplify uncharacteristic tactical sensitivity. A Tehiya leader says: For Bush and Baker, new settlements are like a red rag titillating a raging bull. They almost take personal offense at the issue, and if one can do other things without annoying them, why not?

Even members of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will tell you that it is now necessary to concentrate on beefing up the existing settlements and to lay off the obsession with establishing new ones. Pinhas Wallerstein, the head of the Mate Binyamin Regional Council, and 'Amos Tartman [name as published], the mayor of Ma'ale Adumim, say quite openly that it is more important to bolster what already exists and that this should be given first priority. Other council heads chime in as well, although they refuse to be identified, and only Beni Katzover, the chairman of the Samaria Regional Council, and Uri Ari'el, the secretary general of the settlers' council, claim there is no contradiction between the two, and, while fleshing out existing settlements, simultaneous action should be taken to set up new ones.

"We are not dumb. The Israeli left-wing can breathe a sigh of relief. Nothing dramatic is going to take place," promises [Tehiya's] Elyaqim Ha'etzni. Yet the facts have proved that even a beefing-up campaign can be dramatic.

On paper, the new Likud government has another two and a half years in power. Between 1984 and 1985, more than 25,000 Jews settled in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, increasing the Jewish population there by 90 percent. Although Israel was then ruled by the national unity government, the significant increase in the Jewish population in the territories at that time resulted from the massive construction of new housing units between 1982 and 1983, when a narrow-based Likud-led government was at the helm. During those years, approximately 5,550 housing units were built, making the population increase two years later possible.

The fleshing out people now talk about involves the construction of 5,000 housing units a year. This was the demand presented to the Likud and it constitutes the basic unwritten agreement that seems to have been reached with it. Even if we take Yitzhaq Shamir's credibility with a grain of salt and immediately subtract half that number, we would still be left with approximately 7,500 housing units to be built in the territories within a period of two and a half years, on the basis of these understandings.

Right now, approximately 84,000 Jews reside in the area of Judaea and Samaria alone (including the Jordan Rift Valley), plus another 4,000 or thereabouts in the Gaza Strip. By the next school year, an additional 6,830 Jews will inhabit approximately 1,050 housing units currently in the final construction stages, bringing the total number of Jews in Judaea and Samaria up to about 91,000 individuals by September 1990, or nearly 95,000 if the Gaza Strip is factored in as well.

The fleshing out that people nowadays talk about in the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlers' council carries the potential of adding 7,770 new housing units by the end of the government's term. These estimates are based on calculations conducted in the 17 Jewish councils (local and regional) throughout Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. This is about half the figure agreed upon by the Likud and the rightist parties for the next two and a half years.

In terms of population, 7,770 new housing units translate into almost 35,000 more Jews (according to the formula of 4.5 persons per one housing unit, or 4.5 persons per family). Another qualifying assumption is that the Likud would not be able to break the construction record it scored in 1982/1983, which is why this time, too, it will only reach an addition of 5,000 housing units in the next two years.

The bottom line of the diminished computation is that, based on the calculations of the councils themselves and judging by the Likud's past proven capability, the Jewish population in the territories—and we are taking only the fleshing out campaign into account—will increase by another nearly 25,000 individuals in the coming two years. This means, consequently, that by the end of the government's term, the Jewish populace in the territories will very likely amount to approximately 120,000 individuals (and this is without computing natural birth rates).

Where will they build? And who will come to live in the territories? Four years ago, Meron Benvenisti said that Gush Emunim's ideological settlement drive has nearly exhausted itself. The thousands of Israelis who flocked during that time into the villas and the advertised and hoped-for better quality of life near Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, merely proved his point. Gush Emunim's settlers, the pioneers of settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, accepted the increase in the relative strength of the "only five minutes from Kefar Sava" [advertisement for Israelis to move into the territories] newcomers with mixed feelings. While they were happy to notice that their settlement campaign assumed mass dimensions and was sanctioned as a national campaign, they nonetheless expressed their concern with the relatively small number of settlers who set up house deep inside the area, and they were fearful for the future of these settlements.

The intifadah led to a turn nobody had anticipated. Its first year was tough, but after that the proportion of "ideologically motivated settlers" grew again among the new residents of the settlements. In parallel, the influx of "better-standard-of-living settlers" continued, especially during the past year.

A new type of settlers, which Meron Benvenisti has so far not categorized, are the "ultraorthodox settlers." Some 200 families have already inhabited the ultraorthodox town of Betar, south of Jerusalem. Another 250 families are expected to arrive there in the next year, plus 400 families more in 18 months. A new religious-ultraorthodox settlement which will in fact constitute a suburb of Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood (but which will nevertheless be across the Green Line) will be established in Har Shmu'el. They are talking about 300 families initially.

Ground-breaking work at the site began just a few days ago. In the vicinity of Modi'in, which is also adjacent to the Green Line, two new ultraorthodox settlements are also planned, to be inhabited—at the first stage—by between 800 and 1,000 families. The first is Qiryat Sefer, and the other is Or Sameah. The residents will be ultraorthodox followers of the Lithuanian hasidic movement who now reside in the Bene Beraq area and who support the relatively politically moderate line of Degel Hatora and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. It thus seems that nearly one-quarter of the planned beefing up plans will involve ultraorthodox settlers who will take up residence in places abutting the Green Line, whether in the environs of Jerusalem or along the Coastal Plain.

The other fleshing out campaign, the one that does not involve ultraorthodox circles, will center mainly around the metropolitan areas of the Dan District and Jerusalem. In Ma'ale Adumim, a 10-minute drive from Jerusalem, 150 housing units will be completed and populated this summer. Another 100 apartments will be finished only next year, and a further 1,000 housing units will be built in Ma'ale Adumim in the next two years, according to Construction and Housing Ministry plans.

In Alfe Menashe, also only 10 minutes away from Kefar Sava, 125 new apartments will be inhabited by next summer. According to the plan, however, development plans will start in February 1991 in Giv'at Tal—officially part of Alfe Menashe, in actual fact separated from it, but really very close. The plans talk about 1,400 housing units. Ginot Shomron, which over the past three years grew from 380 to 540 families, can perhaps indicate what could happen to Elqana within the framework of the beefing up campaign, if the settlement receives only part of the 2,000 dunams of state-owned land west of Kafr Qasim. Part of this land is earmarked for the expansion of existing IDF [Israel Defense Force] firing ranges. Some 267 dunams of those 2,000 will be apportioned to Elqana in the near future, and now negotiations are under way between Elqana elders and the Army over several hundred dunams more. Elqana, 10 minutes from Petah Tiqva, is home to 440 families or approximately 3,000 individuals. Another 1,000 families have applied and are waiting in line. So far no apartments are available. The fleshing out campaign is meant to solve that problem.

According to statistical data, at the end of 1986 nearly 85 percent of the Jewish inhabitants of the territories resided in the broad margins of the Dan District and Jerusalem. Meron Benvenisti, who once presented this figure, delineated the boundaries of the metropolitan areas according to the length of time it takes to drive from the settlement to the target destination, which is normally the inhabitants' workplace. According to a survey conducted at that time by the Construction and Housing Ministry, the potential settlers in settlements beyond the Green Line would easily be prepared to add another 15 minutes of commuting to work beyond the time it took them to travel to work from their former places of residence. Travel time inside the Dan District was set at 45 minutes, with only 30 minutes as the limit for the Jerusalem area.

The main thrust of the beefing up campaign will, therefore, occur within the metropolitan demarcation lines outlined by Benvenisti at the time, but it will take place in farther settlements as well. Beni Katzover claims that if he was given just a little bit more today, he could start another 1,000 to 2,000 housing units within the jurisdiction of his regional council (32 settlements). Already now, the settlements included in Katzover's council are growing at a rate of dozens of percent (14,000 individuals currently reside in the Samaria Regional Council). Here are some examples from the difficult area of Nabulus: in Elon More, they are now completing 50 housing units; 30 families currently live in Tel Hayim and apartments are being built to accommodate another 18; 25 families inhabit Yitzhar and construction work will allow another 13 families to move in; in Brakha on Mount Gerizim they are adding 12 new apartments; and 25 more in Qdumim.

The picture is similar in the Mate Binyamin Regional Council. Last March and April, the regional council issued 100 new building permits. Council Chairman Pinhas Wallerstein believes that by next March at least 400 more licenses will have been issued. In September 1986, Mate Binyamin was home to 5,859 Jews. Today they number 10,537. A building momentum is going on there as well. Fifty permanent residences are being built in Kokhav Ya'aqov. In 'Ofra, work is under way to add 34 homes to the existing 143. In Bet El, 30 housing units are under construction; in Shilo—14; in Mikhmash—15; in Kfar Adumim—10; in Talmon—26; in Psagot—eight; and in Rimonim—13.

The massive beefing up deep inside the area is planned for two urban centers: Qiryat Arba' and Ari'el. Another 450 houses are planned for Qiryat Arba' in the next three years, and another 900 are planned for Ari'el. Some 5,000 Jews currently reside in Qiryat Arba'. At the end of the fleshing out campaign, it will house 7,000. Ari'el is presently home to 8,000 Jews, whose ranks will swell to nearly 12,500 by the end of the fleshing out campaign.

Uri Ari'el, the secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, makes no secret of the fact that his insurance policy for actual implementation is Ari'el Sharon, currently construction and housing minister. Sharon has already proved his mettle as agriculture minister, when he spread more than 100 settlements all over the territories.

Sharon was then embroiled in a bitter argument with 'Ezer Weizman, who wanted to concentrate the Jewish population in six major cities. Now, against the backdrop of the delicate political situation and Israel's dependence on financial aid for immigrant absorption, Sharon will likely execute 'Ezer Weizman's policy of 11 years ago. Thus, there will be fleshing out, but it will not involve six towns; rather, it will involve 140 settlements.

Regional council	No. of Jews today	Additional Jews by summer's end	Expansion planned for next few years in terms of housing units
Shomron	14,000	1,000	1,000
Binyamin	10,527	1,500	600
Bet Arye	1,000	45	50
Ma'ale Adumim	13,500	750	1,200
Qiryat Arba'	5,000	200	450
Hebron	400	—	?
Alfey Menashe	2,550	280	1,500
Oranit	2,000	225	350
Gush 'Etzyon	4,950	250	—
Betar	800	1,000	400
Efrat	2,500	150	300
Ma'ale Efrayim	1,500	—	—
Ari'el	8,000	665	900
'Imanu'el	3,500	—	200
Elqana	3,000	150	70
Biq'a	3,500	(there are 200 empty apartments today)	
Har Hevron	1,600	160	100
Giv'at Ze'ev	5,500	175	250
Hof 'Aza	4,000	280	400
Total	87,827	6,830	7,770 housing units with approximately 33,000 people

Note: The data is based on talks with the heads of regional councils and settlements, and officials in charge of housing in the regional councils.

Jewish Population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza

(based on the registers of Jewish councils)

Year	Population	Population increase	Increase in percentages
1987	70,000	10,500	15.00
1988	5,000	5,000	7.14
1989	81,200	6,200	8.27
1990	94,650	13,457	16.57

Commentary Views U.S.-Saudi Arms Deal

TA2806131190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jun 90 p A1

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "Tacit Approval for Saudi Deal"]

[Text] One of the first discussions Moshe Arens held after taking over the Defense Ministry did not deal with the intifadah or the Iraqi missile threat. It was aimed at forming a clear Israeli stand on the huge arms deal about to be signed between the United States and Saudi Arabia.

It is now clear that the defense establishment's total neglect of the $4 billion deal is yet another example of the damage caused during the interim period between defense ministers. [Acting] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not give the issue any special attention, and Yitzhaq Rabin did not bother to work out a clear policy on the deal when all the details became known, and he did not try to ascertain from friends in the Pentagon the chances for minimizing the damage.

Israel's friends in Congress and members of AIPAC [America Israel Public Affairs Committee], the pro-Israeli lobby, waited a long time for a signal from Jerusalem on Israel's opposition to the deal so that they could begin to thwart it, or at least to limit its scope. The U.S. Administration expressed its surprise, but in secret because it suited U.S. policymakers to receive congressional approval for the arms deal while giving the impression that Israel posed no opposition to it.

An experts investigation into the significance of the Saudi sale recently carried out by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] at Arens' request showed that the entire Saudi procurement deal is a source for concern in the Army, but one of the items might become especially problematic from an operational viewpoint. These are the new generation TOW antitank missiles, the TOW T-A, which are not yet operational in the Middle Eastern arena. Their performance is much better than that of their predecessor.

The Saudis plan to purchase 2,000 upgraded TOW's for their national guard. Members of the Congressional Foreign Affairs Committee and the Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus who tried to find out why the Saudi national guard, which is in charge of internal security, needs such a large quantity of antitank weapons, did not manage to get a reasonable answer from the Pentagon representatives who testified before them.

The arguments raised to the legislators by the administration representatives about the Saudis' desperate need to procure such large quantities of arms, and their description of the external dangers facing that country, were so ridiculous that members of the House of Representatives burst out in laughter from time to time. Nevertheless, no matter how ridiculous the administration's arguments are, the deal will go through. The U.S. legislators learned their lesson from the torpedoing of the two large arms deals in the first half of 1986.

At that time, under the active prodding of Israel and its friends in Washington, Congress successfully opposed the administration's intent to sell F-15's to Saudi Arabia and carry out a large arms deal with Jordan. Administration experts who later analyzed the torpedoing of the aircraft deal with Saudi Arabia found it had cost the U.S. economy no less than $12 billion and tens of thousands of lost jobs. This lesson, in addition to the cuts in the U.S. defense budget and the impact on non-military U.S. industries, makes it clear that Israel's chances of once again succeeding in using its friends across the ocean to abrogate arms deals with Arab countries are declining. But the difference between this and totally ignoring such deals is great.

That is the reason that, following another discussion early this week, Arens ordered the Washington Embassy to start actively trying to prevent the implementation of certain parts of the deal. Minister Arens also ordered Israel's friends in Congress to be told that despite the impression created thus far, Jerusalem does not accept the deal.

That is all very well, but too late. The month given to Congress to work out its position before the deal is approved ends in two weeks. If no opposition is voiced before that deadline, the deal is automatically approved. Therefore, very few days are left to arouse the interest of congressmen in the Israeli defense establishment's distress at the strengthening of the Arab armies. It is doubtful whether in such a short time, and after such a long period of silence, the Washington embassy will be able recruit support capable of foiling the implementation of the deal.

Besides the TOW missiles, the deal includes 1,117 light armored cars, 12 armed vehicles for the evacuation of tanks, and 27 155 mm howitzers, and most importantly, the upgrading of the AWACS to the tune of $600 million. Saudi Arabia has five AWACS. After being equipped with the most advanced systems they will be a serious addition to the threat on the eastern front. The Saudis will be able to transfer intelligence information to the confrontation states on that front, and during wartime supply a real-time warning via the command and control centers in Jordan, Iraq, and Syria. They will also be able to participate in the conduct of dogfights.

Larry Smith, a member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, claims that U.S. willingness to sell Saudi Arabia such large quantities of arms is like "fattening up geese." The true situation is, of course, not similar to the parable since the geese have long since become threatening eagles. The reassuring declarations by administration representatives that Israel's superiority would be maintained even after the deal is implemented must not soothe those responsible for Israel's security. The problem is that the defense establishment's oversight in recent months of ignoring the need to take

action on the Saudi deal provided the U.S. Administration with unexpected assistance, and even worse, created a dangerous precedent. The approval of a such an enormous arms deal with an Arab country, without any real congressional opposition, provides a wide opening for deals with additional Arab countries whose direct danger to Israel is much greater.

Navy To Receive Antiballistic Missile System

TA1806155790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jun 90 p A3

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] At the beginning of next year, the Navy will receive the first prototype of a missile vessel carrying a Baraq-class antiballistic missile system. The boat is manufactured by Israel Shipyards and is based on the Saar 4 missile boat.

Baraq was developed jointly by Rafa'el and Israel Aircraft Industries; its financing was assisted by two foreign navies—one South American and one Far Eastern. Their participation in Baraq's development began in the project's early stages.

Judging by the planning and published data, Baraq will be the most advanced naval missile of its kind. It will take off vertically and will be able to down missiles, in addition to its ability to hit aircraft and boats.

Baraq development was designed to give Navy vessels better protection against every kind of existing naval missiles. The Baraq system was originally devised for the Saar 5 vessel, but it was decided to install it on Saar 4.5 first, in order to examine its performance before the production of Saar 5 in a U.S. shipyard is completed.

The Navy intends to upgrade more missile boats, which will also be able to carry the Baraq missile systems. Every Saar 4.5 missile boat will be able to carry 64 Baraq missiles. The upgrading of the missile boats will include the replacement of the command bridge with new electronic systems.

Rabin Outlines Political Views, Goals

TA2706190390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Interview with Labor Party Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin by Yitzhaq Golan on the weekly "With A Discerning Eye" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Golan] Yitzhaq Rabin, we have not heard a Likud member mention the intention to annex territories. How can the Likud be accused of wanting that?

[Rabin] Excuse me. The fundamental difference regarding the basic approach toward the solution to the entire issue is between Greater Israel, which implies annexation; and peace together with security, without the submission to Israeli sovereignty of those areas in which the majority of the 1.5 million Palestinians reside. Substantial changes—yes; meaning drawing the Israeli security border along the Jordan River, the Jordan Rift Valley, and the eastern slopes of the hills of Judaea and Samaria. That definitely, because that is where the Israeli borders should be defended.

[Golan] But now both Ari'el Sharon and the prime minister state that new immigrants are not being settled in the territories, and that there is furthermore no intention of doing that—presumably for the same reasons you mentioned just now.

[Rabin] I would draw a distinction between the Alignment's viewpoint and that of the Likud. They say only that Soviet immigrants are not being settled in the territories, which is an elementary thing under the existing political circumstances for anyone who wants aliyah from the USSR to continue. We say that there is no point in establishing new settlements in densely populated areas. This is where the Alignment and the Likud differ, and these differences stem from our diverging approach to the permanent solution and the shape it should take. Moreover, I for one believe that the central part of the national unity government's May 1989 peace initiative, the part on which the entire initiative hinges, what we pushed for, and the part in which I and the Likud members and members of the Labor Party played a key role, deals with ways to reach the start of the process. It is clear to me that it is impossible, given this complex situation, to reach a solution in one fell swoop, and that it must be based on a phased approach. The first stage will involve elections in the territories, in which a representation of them will be democratically elected by them, because they are our partners. The emphasis should be on a dialogue with the Palestinians in the territories. [passage omitted]

[Golan] Why are you prophesying such doom under this narrow nationalist government when this very government has undertaken not to settle new immigrants in the territories, and is anchored in its basic guidelines to the May 1989 peace process, including the Camp David agreements. What fault can you find in that?

[Rabin] Look, let us discuss the political aspect now. From the political standpoint, true, this indeed appears in the new government guidelines. But in effect, I cannot but notice the fact that the new government failed to include in its guidelines the Inner Cabinet resolution of 6 November 1989 calling for a positive response to Baker's five points, which mention the meeting between Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo to work out, in that dialogue, the modalities for the elections [in the territories]. But more than that, I look at the composition of the government. We know who are the constraints ministers and their supporters in the Likud. Then Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet joined that group. Can you really believe that such a government can pursue the process on the basis of the unity government's peace initiative?

[Golan] Only time will tell.

[Rabin] Yet I can tell you assuredly today that this will not happen, not along the lines and in the direction that were possible before.

[Golan] Tell me: If you are elected Labor Party leader, will you be prepared to repeat the exercise and head another unity government, if there is no other alternative?

[Rabin] It would be a cardinal mistake for the Labor Party and the opposition to set for itself a goal that is different from only one, clearly defined objective: First, to consolidate positions in a positive way, namely to define what we want politically; second, in the socioeconomic sphere, to turn the Soviet immigration into a tremendous lever for the raising of funds in the world and in Israel to advance and improve Israel's society and economy; and third, to overhaul the constitutional and electoral systems in order to lead to an expression of no-confidence in the government in a democratic procedure, and to bring about early elections to guarantee that we have an addition of at least five Knesset seats from the moderate right-wing so that we can become the dominant component in a future government. We should be looking ahead, not back with a longing to past political exercises. [passage omitted]

[Golan] The public has lost faith in the leadership. The man in the street says: We are sick and tired of all of you, whether you are a Likud minister or an Alignment minister—all the leaders. I would like to ask you what message Yitzhaq Rabin will offer the Labor Party and the public if he heads the party, and by that I mean a new message, not a wishy-washy and fuzzy political message which has more or less characterized the Labor Party in the past few years.

[Rabin] I disagree with your statement that the Labor Party's political stand is foggy. It is clear. We voted for the Camp David accords.

[Golan] But some people argue that in that you were merely the echoing the Likud.

[Rabin] So they said that, so what? We regarded the Camp David accords first of all as the cornerstone for that edifice of peace in the Middle East: peace with Egypt. Then, with respect to expanding the peace process and the need to extend them beyond Egypt, the Camp David accords call for dealing with the Palestinian problem. I trust we can do that without jeopardizing Israel's security.

[Golan] And without talking to the PLO?

[Rabin] Through negotiations with the Palestinians from the territories and together with Egypt, which has a central role to play in the matter, and the United States—but without the United Nations and without the Europeans, as has actually been the case since the end of the Yom Kippur war, through the disengagement agreements, the interim agreement, the Camp David agreements, and the peace treaty. The 1980's were barren, years during which we reached no agreement with any Arab country with the exception of the infamous peace accord with Lebanon of 17 May 1983, which died even before the ink on the paper dried. In the 1970's, on the other hand, every prime minister signed a political-security agreement—whether limited or broad—with the Arab countries. In the 1980's no prime minister was able to sign any agreement with an Arab country. I believe the path to which we contributed substantially as part of the national unity government, namely the peace initiative—primarily the Palestinian component thereof—can and must materialize. This is our main political message.

[Golan] What about the socioeconomic sphere?

[Rabin] There I believe that aliyah can serve as a tremendous boost for equality between the new immigrants—after they have been absorbed—and native Israelis, when it comes to housing and jobs.

[Golan] But in that respect there is no difference between you and the Likud.

[Rabin] That would be a correct assertion if they adopted our way. We favor state intervention and aid for the productive, agricultural, and industrial sectors. We support a policy on aliyah involving less investment and waste in the territories. We would really like to focus on the central issues.

Furthermore, assuming that a peace process exists, or that at the least the world—or mainly the United States—feels that we mean peace not only in word but also in deed, or that we are prepared to show readiness to engage in actions, I believe this will help us raise funds in a way that differs from the way we have experienced since the peace process stopped and froze, which is where we are today. The present narrow extreme rightist government will not be able to change anything.

Additionally, we should strive to change the constitutional and electoral system so that the Israeli democracy truly does not become a farce, as it was in the past four months when various party splinters or cross-over Knesset members were able to determine Israel's line. It is high time we introduced substantial changes in this area. [passage omitted]

[Golan] Tell me, do you fear a worse situation after the suspension of the U.S. dialogue with the PLO?

[Rabin] It is hard for me to tell. I do not, however, regard this as the main issue. If I were in a decision-making government position today, I would say a simple thing: Look, the United States suspended its talks with the PLO. A new situation exists, and this is precisely the best time to promote the peace process. The United States does not maintain contacts with the PLO—and, by the way, I think the United States reached the decision as far back as last August that the only way to back [latet gibuy]

the Palestinians in the territories in goals similar to ours is through Egypt, thanks to its contacts with the various components of the Arab world. The U.S. influence through its dialogue with the PLO in Tunis was, in fact, virtually nil.

To me the importance of Egypt, and particularly that of President Mubarak, as partner in the process is in the necessary backing it offers the Palestinians, first of all in preparation for the election phase so that they can form a legitimate, elected representation of residents of the territories. I believe that this representation could, in the long run, really become the leadership of the Palestinians in the territories, which is the largest Palestinian subgroup.

[Golan] Mr. Rabin, it has been argued that our relations with the United States are at a low. Do you think that the reason for this is solely because we did not say yes to Baker?

[Rabin] I believe relations with the United States are far more complex than that. They cannot be summed up in one issue, or judged on the basis of only one question. When I moved out of the Defense Ministry, I thought that in the defense sphere we reached exceptional achievements in our cooperation, which nevertheless honored and respected the rules and principle that Israel does not need U.S. forces to maintain its security, while the United States helps Israel to be able to defend itself by itself. There is no doubt that the intifadah in the territories had a certain impact at a certain time. It left its mark on U.S. public opinion, but this has decreased appreciably. I was very pleased to hear data broadcast on the radio that in the first five months of 1990 the number of overseas tourists rose by 15 percent, and that the forecast is that this year will be a good one in terms of tourism. For me this is a clear indication of the degree of fear foreign elements have of the intifadah, as it is inconceivable that someone who lives abroad would visit Israel if he is scared of the intifadah.

I think that on the whole the intifadah is no longer what it used to be, say a year or a year and a half ago, in terms of world public opinion. This is not to say, however, that it disappeared altogether. I believe, moreover, that if it were possible to pursue the peace process—which is currently frozen and at an impasse, or actually, in my opinion, nearly defunct—this would be significant, not just an answer to a question.

The problem is whether the United States believes that this government can, or wants to, promote the peace process on the basis of what had already been agreed upon and what still needs to take place in the course of the development of this process. This is the cause of tension in our relations. [passage omitted]

Statistics Bureau Reports Rising Unemployment

TA2506091090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jun 90 p 6

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] Unemployment continued to climb during the first quarter of the year, according to figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Bureau figures show that the number of unemployed rose to 9.4 percent in seasonally adjusted terms, during the first quarter of 1990, up from 9.1 percent in the last quarter of 1989, and 8.3 percent during the first quarter of 1989.

During the first three months of the year, there were an average of 144,000 jobseekers per week. This represents a 15.8 percent increase over the first quarter of 1989.

A spokesman for the bureau said that the total work force reached 1,618,000 on average per week during the first quarter, a 1.3 percent increase over the number recorded during the same period last year.

Soviet Ambassador Holds News Conference

Dialogue, Israel, Emigration

JN2806163090 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Amman, 28 Jun (PETRA)—Mr. Yuriy Gryadunov, Soviet ambassador in Amman, has said that the political leaders in the Soviet Union agree in their views on many problems and issues that are of interest to our two countries and the situation in the region.

At a news conference at the Soviet Cultural Center in Amman today, the ambassador stated that the situation in the Middle East has become more tense, especially after the arrival to power of the most extremist parties in Israel and the United States's suspension of the dialogue with the PLO. He noted that the Soviet Government has stated its position on these two important issues.

He reaffirmed the constant, strong Soviet stance on the rights of the Palestinian people which will not change. The Soviet leadership has communicated this stance to Jordanian officials, to the Arabs, and to a number of leading Palestinian officials.

He also expressed the Soviet leadership's determination to solve the issue of the Jewish emigrants in the Soviet Union in a way which will not make this emigration take place at the expense of the Palestinian people and in accordance with international laws and norms. He said that by seeking to expand and establish Greater Israel, the Israeli leadership has pushed aside all laws and norms approved by the international community.

He referred to the developments now taking place in the Soviet Union, explaining that these are impossible to reverse, and, first and foremost, democracy will triumph, he said.

He added: We regret the U.S. position, including the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO. We believe dialogue alone is not enough. However, we welcome all efforts, endeavors, and measures under way to create a climate for reasonable solutions in the Middle East. This U.S. position is not constructive, especially as it came after the formation of the new Israeli government. This, he said, does not help stability in the region.

The Soviet ambassador added: The Soviet Union still believes in convening the international conference as a means of establishing peace in the Middle East. He also said that PLO participation in this conference is evidence that the conference will be effective.

On the possibility of the Soviet Union's establishing relations with Israel prior to the convening of the international conference, the ambassador said: The Soviet Union recognizes the existence of Israel. If Israel follows a serious path toward resolving the Middle East issue and abandons its expansionist policy, the elements that led the Soviet Union to sever relations with Israel will then disappear.

On the Soviet Union's stance toward the Palestinian state, he said: Our position toward the independent Palestinian state has not changed. We support the struggle of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state. You know that we recognized the state proclaimed by the Palestine National Council. Besides, Palestine has an ambassador in (?Moscow).

Further on Mideast Situation

JN2906090190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Jun 90 p 3

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Soviet Ambassador in Amman Yuriy Gryadunov has described Jordanian-Soviet relations as strong, developed, and being continuously consolidated in various spheres.

At a news conference at the Soviet Cultural Center yesterday, the ambassador said that the two friendly countries—Jordan and the Soviet Union—share joint interests based on identical views on issues of interest to the two governments.

Gryadunov said a solid and strong foundation for relations between our two countries had been built by His Majesty King Husayn during his visit to the Soviet Union and his meeting with President Gorbachev in 1987.

He expressed his belief that tension in the Middle East had increased after the coming to power of extremists in Israel. He said the situation had been exacerbated by the suspension of the U.S. dialogue with PLO. He added that he had just met with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to discuss these two serious issues.

The ambassador warned against Israeli aggression against Arab states. He declared the Soviet Union's condemnation of such an aggression if it were to take place and urged all states to prevent it, especially as these states possess all the necessary means to do so.

Mr. Gryadunov expressed amazement at the suspension of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. He said that although the dialogue was limited, it had helped in the search for a solution to the Middle East problem.

He said: It is true that the dialogue alone does not solve the problem, but we welcome any efforts to create a better atmosphere for resolving the Middle East issue.

He added: We support all efforts to create the appropriate climate for reaching a peaceful settlement of the region's crisis. He reaffirmed the Soviet Union's position on the need to convene an international conference to be attended by all parties to the dispute, including the PLO.

He said we have recognized the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, and this state has an ambassador for Moscow. He said the Soviet Union

would not restore relations with Israel as long as it continued to violate human rights and cling to its aggressive policy.

The ambassador said our position on Jewish emigration is identical to that of the majority of Arab states and the PLO, which do not oppose Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union in principle, but oppose the resettlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories.

He said: Solving this problem and preventing Israel from proceeding with its plans to settle Jewish emigrants in the occupied territories is not the responsibility of the Soviet Union alone, but also that of the United States, the Arab world, and all members of the international community.

He said that Israel's attempts to settle Jews in the occupied territories violate international law and Palestinian human rights.

He said: We will soon pass a law that allows Soviet citizens who have emigrated, or those who will emigrate, to return to the Soviet Union, and they will be granted passports valid for five years for this purpose.

He said new laws would be formulated in a manner consistent with the international community and human rights.

The ambassador said the Soviet Union would not change its attitude toward Zionism as a racist movement, nor its position on the Palestinians' just rights and the Arab peoples' right to their territories occupied in 1967. He added that our positions on these issues are clear, firm, and have not and will not change. He said these positions have been announced officially more than once.

Gryadunov noted that the Soviet Union consistently supports the values and ideals of human and peoples' rights. He said: We know that Zionist societies have recently increased in the Soviet Union in light of the openness in the country. He went on, however, to say that laws are being reformulated to take measures against organizations that contravene public law, including Zionist organizations.

On the Soviet Union's alleged abdication of its role as a superpower, he said the greatness of states does not stem from their possession of nuclear or conventional weapons, but from their contribution to international security and their respect for human and national rights.

On the reduction of scholarships for Jordanian students in the Soviet Union, he said this reduction does not affect Jordanian students only, but also many states that have cultural relations with the Soviet Union.

King Husayn on Israeli 'Schemes,' Mideast Issues

NC2706092890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0724 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan has stated that confronting Israeli threats is the responsibility of all the Arabs. The new Israeli Government, he declared, has schemes encompassing the entire Arab world. The Jewish threat is not going to stop at the borders of Jordan or Palestine, the king said, adding that the Arabs are all standing on the edge of a volcano whose lava can reach distant as well as nearby places.

The Jordanian king said that diplomatic reports recently received by several major countries indicate a strong possibility that Israel may embark on a military operation east of the river Jordan in order to impose a final resolution of the Palestinian issue.

This came in an interview that appears in today's issue of the Egyptian magazine AKHIR SA'AH and in which the king discussed the current situation in the Middle East following the Baghdad summit. King Husayn said that the Baghdad summit "has demonstrated an awareness of the international changes that will cause negative as well as positive repercussions. The Arabs are aware that, now more than at any time before, they need to rely on their own resources to meet their obligations and resolve their problems."

Commenting on Jordanian-U.S. relations, King Husayn noted that these ties have recently cooled off. He said that "the dialogue with Washington is continuing in a language that they may not like, but it is the language of reality."

Asked about the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, the Jordanian king said: We have repeatedly warned of the consequences of a U.S. decision to halt the dialogue with the PLO. Halting the dialogue will entail great dangers that I do not see as justified. King Husayn said that Israel dealt a fierce blow to the peace proposals presented by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The Jordanian king said that Israel, and not the PLO, has proved to the whole world that it is uncompromisingly opposed to any step that may seem promising in terms of achieving a comprehensive solution. The PLO, he noted, has not so far achieved anything in return for its recognition of Israel, rejection of terrorism, and the many peace gestures that it was asked to make.

Regarding current international developments and changes and the requisites for East Europe's merger with West Europe, King Husayn said: The Arabs must study all these matters well and deal with them, because they may have many destructive consequences that could be dangerous and calamitous to the Arab homeland.

The Jordanian king referred to the problem of settling Jews in Arab territories, saying that this would create a new demographic reality that would constitute a real act of aggression against the rights of the Palestinian Arab, a

direct act of aggression against Palestine, and an imminent one against Jordan. He reiterated that the present danger does not stop at the borders of the land of Palestine and the emigration of its people, but would also threaten Jordan's national security, and this is why Israel has chosen Jordan as the area through which it will carry out its expected act of aggression against the Arab nation. Confronting this aggression is the responsibility of all the Arabs without exception, he added.

Regarding this danger, King Husayn said: We made a good start after the Baghdad summit, where all the resolutions focused on pan-Arab security in Palestine and Jordan, the longest lines of confrontation. He added that a political decision was made to support Jordan financially, economically, and politically in order to enable it to continue performing its important and vital role of defending the Arab nation against the enemies and their plans.

Regarding the regular holding of Arab summits, King Husayn said that Jordan was in the forefront of those countries that supported President Husni Mubarak's proposal to hold regular summits of Arab leaders, stressing that the agreement on regular meetings of Arab leaders was one of the important achievements of the Baghdad summit.

The Jordanian monarch explained that this decision is important because it allows Arab leaders regular opportunities to meet and study developments in the Arab arena and the problems and complications they face, particularly in light of the international changes that are still continuing and that have not taken their final shape yet. He added that the Arabs must keep pace with these changes and that their effects and repercussions on the Arab arena must be monitored.

The Jordanian king stressed that the meetings of Arab leaders and their frank, cordial, and well-intentioned talks are much better than having every country act alone. The ideal way, he said, for confronting the dangers and challenges facing us is to meet and talk under one roof, and this is why the Baghdad summit achieved a great success in this respect.

Paper Praises EC Summit Statement on Mideast

JN2806120390 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 28 Jun 90 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "The European Summit Statement"]

[Text] The European Community (EC) decision to appoint a representative in the occupied territories is a practical step to confirm the independence of these territories from the Zionist entity, to control the situation there and to establish a joint European presence. It is evident that the decision, which came within the European Summit statement several days ago, is complementary to the EC's call to Israel, which also came in the statement, demanding that it stop settlement activities in the occupied territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and calling for protecting Palestinian human rights in those territories.

The European Summit statement, which reminds Israel that commitment to the peace process requires implementation and commitment to the principle of land for peace, may be considered the most decisive European action so far, which reveals the isolated, biased U.S. stand anew and the EC's conviction that it should play a major role in establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region, which prompted it to appoint a representative in the occupied territories.

Thus, it is evident that the EC is sincere in affirming its credibility and independence from the U.S. stand. Without doubt, this is a relief. Still, it does not cancel the need to expedite the building of an intrinsic Arab power so the Arabs will be able to face all possibilities. It is noteworthy that the U.S.-Israeli sense of international responsibility is at its lowest level. Therefore, the Arabs should not wait for a sincere Israeli response to the European Summit's statement. The true implementation of the statement's contents requires pooling Arab resources to make the Israeli aggressors and their allies revise their calculations and take the statement seriously.

At any rate, the Arabs should consider this statement to be an opportunity which should be supported by more intrinsic power and serious pan-Arab action.

Al-Qasim on Palestine Question, Finnish Position

JN2706150690 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Jun 90

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Marwan al-Qasim and Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio and their delegations held official talks at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Following the talks, Mr. Marwan al-Qasim was interviewed by the press.

[Begin recording] [Al-Qasim] It was an opportunity for Jordan to clarify its position. We know it is well-known in Finland, a country that we share many things in common, and we feel that your country has been very effective in its own perseverance in trying to contribute in a meaningful way to the stability of the region through your own UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] contribution. And at the same time we have indicated to my colleague the minister the fears and the clouds of instability that hang over the region as a result of the intransigence of the Government of Israel and at a time when the Palestinians and the moderation within the Palestinian movement had come forthwith in its attempt to contribute positively to the peace process and backed by the whole Arab leadership. And this was reiterated again in less than two weeks [as heard] ago at the summit in Baghdad. So what we are in need of is to see that the chances of peace in the region are not put aside or

overwhelmed by the negative forces that have emanated in Israel and creating an unfortunate, unhealthy reaction throughout the region.

[Reporter] But how do you see that question of Soviet Jews' possible going via Finland to Israel?

[Al-Qasim] Well, we have made our position clear on that to our dear colleagues. We in no way stand against the right of people to emigrate, but definitely if that is not at the expense of the basic human rights of the Palestinian people. I would have liked very much to see countries who were very much supportive of the right of Soviet Jews to leave the Soviet Union to open their gates again under the human rights and their economic, and social, and moral, and ethical, and political responsibilities towards those people, but not at the expense of the Palestinian people and other Arab rights.

[Reporter] What is the Jordanian point of view for having peace in the region?

[Al-Qasim] Well, Jordan has been working and risking a great deal to achieve peace in the region. We were the first country to accept the formula of a political settlement by accepting Resolution 242 back in 1967. From that time, till this day, we have not changed our position. Many others came to our position. The Arab side is ready and extending a hand for peace. It seems that others who don't want to see peace or don't want to give peace a chance have been gaining momentum in Israel and in other places. The suspension of the dialogue between the PLO and the United States is definitely a sad occasion when one looks at the prospects of peace in the region, being that the PLO since 1988 has come a long way and contributed strategically to the needs of peace. And ironically, it has to be punished at a time when the other party that can make peace is still shying away of it, from it, and taking a very intransigent position.

[Reporter] How do you see Middle East peace? Is the Middle East closer to war than peace right now?

[Al-Qasim] We in this country, will continue to work to promote peace. And we will do whatever is necessary to promote the spirit of peace because war as an alternative, is disastrous to all. There is no one who will be exempted from it. This is why one has to think positively for the sake of humanity and human rights for all, as well as peace and security for the region and even beyond the region.

[Reporter] Are you optimistic in solving the Middle East problem?

[Al-Qasim] Well, the Middle East problem has taken quite a bit of time. It has taken decades, and one cannot provide a solution in days or weeks. But we are still maintaining the spirit that a political settlement could be achieved when those who are responsible for peace and security can influence the other party to come forthwith and contribute in a positive manner.

[Reporter] But how do you see the latest statements by Mr. Sharon and Shamir which indicate that they are somehow changing their policy and saying that it is not their policy to settle the Soviet Jews to West Bank and Gaza?

[Al-Qasim] Well, I do not think there is a change of policy because Shamir is someone who said not long ago: We need big immigration for big Israel. When he talks about Eretz Yisrael, we know exactly what he means. That means in our thinking that maybe he is not going to, at this time, evict people, but in the future, definitely, you are going to find Palestinians and others the victims of this policy. It is not a new policy that Shamir harbored. But it is for the first time that it became a government policy stated with the clearest possible manners. [sentence as heard] The Soviet Jews....[changes thought] Already on many occasions, Shamir said: Well, we will not build new settlements, but already he has 242 settlements that can absorb quite a bit of Jews. It's not a matter of Soviet Jews, or any other Jew. The territory is an Arab territory, and to settle on it is in total contravention of the fourth Geneva convention, fourth Geneva convention [repeats himself]. And I think your country had noted this on many occasions in the past and has taken a position that supports the basic rights of the Palestinians and the Arab rights in their territory.

[Reporter] Did you ask from our minister any...

[Al-Qasim, interrupting] I do not want to prolong the minister's wait here.

[Reporter] Can we ask one more question? Did you ask for any special guarantees or any special message from Finland regarding negotiations?

[Al-Qasim] Well, as I said, Finland has played and hopefully will continue to play a constructive role; being a country, a member of the Security Council, being an active country in a very subtle but effective way in the region, I think gives it the basic credentials that will make Finland an active and contributing country towards peace and security for the region. [End recording]

Mr. al-Qasim also said Jordan wishes to promote its relations with Finland, voicing appreciation of Finland's stand toward the Palestinian issue. The Finnish foreign minister said his country appreciates Jordan's efforts to achieve just peace in the region. He said Finland viewed Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories as illegal. He also said Finland supports the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination within the framework of a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Editorial on U.S. Reaction to Shamir's Letter

JN2906094890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
29 Jun 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "A Big Israeli 'NO'"]

[Text] At last, Israeli Prime Minister Shamir has sent the long-awaited response to U.S. President George Bush's letter, saying clearly and in a tone that cannot be misinterpreted that Israel has nothing to offer at the negotiating table other than the same merchandise that the United States itself once rejected.

In his letter, which has been impatiently awaited by the U.S. Administration, Shamir said his government does not consider the settlements in the occupied territories as an obstacle to peace, and that the right-wing, fanatical government is ready to join the peace process if Jerusalem Arabs and Palestinian deportees are excluded from any delegation to the dialogue.

In other words, Shamir adheres in his letter to the same Israeli position that made the possibility of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo several weeks ago collapse and caused the U.S. Secretary of State to lose control and announce that Israel knows the White House phone number if it is willing to achieve peace.

Now, when Shamir explicitly declares his continued adherence to his past policies, this means that he is telling the Americans: You either accept what Israel accepts or stop your boring talk about a peace process that lacks the least interest or respect from the ultra-extremist rightists.

Although it is too early to know the U.S. reaction to this letter—which will keep Washington from being able to continue its policy of buying time—according to our long past experience, it can not be ruled out that White House official spokesmen will welcome this letter as one containing positive elements that can be developed through continued dialogue between the two strategic allies.

Shamir's message to President Bush contains extremely radical positions and policies that show the Americans the Middle East stalemate that their appeasing policies have led them to. It should also open the eyes and minds of Arabs to this highly extremist Israeli policy. There is no alternative for dealing with this fanatic political mentality except through the only language that it can understand, by which we mean mobilization, preparedness, and strength.

Columnist Urges Hostility Toward United States

JN2806085590 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic
28 Jun 90 p 30

["Just an Opinion" column: "Enemy No. 1" by Badr 'Abd-al-Haqq]

[Text] I believe it is time we posed the following question: Are we indeed hostile to the United States? Do we really consider it our main and first enemy? Or, does it all boil down to merely an outburst of temporary emotions which soon fade away; emotions that burst out quickly and die down even more quickly?

This question is not new. In fact, it is a chronic question which is posed by everyone whenever hostility toward the United States reaches new highs as a result of its direct and repeated hostile policies against the Arab nation and continuous support for its strategic ally—Israel.

Moreover, this question is not directed at a vacuum. In fact, certain well-known quarters are supposed to be able to answer it and embark on a strong initiative in order to alert the ignorant about the gravity of U.S. policies and to combat any belittling of the attempts to put pressure on the United States and to boycott its political, cultural, social, and economic interests.

Perhaps the Jordanian professional union is the party more concerned than others about this issue because it is the largest and a long-established popular organization in the country, as well as the one which is always capable of influencing the man in the street and directing and mobilizing the masses against U.S. aggression.

This call is directed personally to Dr. Mamduh 'Abbadi in his capacity as chairman of the committee which supervises the professional unions complex and is responsible for the deans and the boards of directors of all professional unions.

Of course, what is needed is not a massive speech rally to attack the United States. What is needed is a limited unionist meeting to discuss in an objective and serious manner the possibility of drawing a detailed action program to strike at and boycott the interests of the United States by all available means.

After the professional unions comes the role of the Jordanian House of Representatives, which represents the conscience of the man in the street and has the legislative authority which can legalize the hostility toward U.S. policy and make that hostility the personal slogan of every citizen.

During the past few months in the life of the House of Representatives we have heard inflamed speeches by our people's professional representatives directed against the "serpent's head". However, this hot rhetoric has not turned into real action, rising to the level of public anger and the continuous threats against U.S. interests.

Several parliamentary blocs have been formed, or are in the process of being formed, in the House of Representatives. I do not think that any single one of these blocs can adopt a viewpoint contrary to public demand for hostility against the United States after all that the U.S. Administratin has done to us here in Jordan and there in the land of the brave intifadah, and even further beyond in Libya, Tunisia, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, and in every Arab land!!

Our people have always been behind pure pan-Arab stands and initiatives against any attempt to weaken or threaten Jordan. This people is now facing a serious danger from Israel and the United States. If our hostility toward Israel is a foregone conclusion, our hostility to the United States is still doubted by many people, despite the clear fact that the United States is fully financing current Jewish emigration just as it has always adopted the Israeli viewpoint in all phases of the conflict in the region.

Manifestation of hostility toward the U.S. Administration has become an urgent national and pan-Arab demand. If the professional unions and the parliamentary blocs succeed in finding the right formula and a serious action program to entrench and escalate this hostility, we would be in a position to move to the wider pan-Arab sphere so the United States would become enemy no. 1 to every Arab citizen in every Arab country not by slogans and rhetoric, but by deeds.

Islamic Bloc Criticizes Unemployment Policy

JN2806104090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Jun 90 p 1

[By 'Abdallah Hasanat, JORDAN TIMES Staff Reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Bloc in the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday expressed dissatisfaction with the policy of the government of Mudar Badran to tackle unemployment and hinted it might reconsider its confidence in the government.

"We note the government's failure and shortcomings in dealing with unemployment," Islamic Bloc Deputy 'Abdallah 'Akayilah told the House. "We are fully convinced that the government has failed to address a main issue (unemployment) included in its policy statement on the basis of which it received our confidence," he said.

'Akayilah, speaking on behalf of the Islamic Bloc, listed nine points in which he said the government failed to take action. These included, failure to curb unemployment, the absence of a central body to tackle the problem, the delay in establishing the National Employment and Development Fund, lack of investment, especially on the part of the Social Security Corporation and the failure to establish cooperatives.

Minister of Labour Qasim 'Ubaydat earlier read a government statement which put unemployment at 70,000 (15.6 per cent of the work force).

He said a solution to the problem required long-term strategies and blamed the lack of investment for the problem.

'Ubaydat said the government had so far succeeded in ensuring "financial stability and a balanced exchange rate policy" and was now aiming at reactivating the economy through the increase of exports and production.

"Indications are that investment trends are moving in the right direction," he said. Expansion in industry in the first five months of 1990 amounted to 6.5 per cent, according to the minister.

'Ubaydat outlined the government's policy to curb unemployment. He said the government was proposing a new investment law for foreign capital and was in the process of amending investment laws in general by introducing more incentives.

He said that the government was reviewing the policy of exports, proposing a foreign trade bank to finance exports and consulting with the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) to improve exports.

'Ubaydat said the unemployed fall in four categories:
—The educated who have applied for government jobs;
—Unskilled and semi-skilled labour;
—Pensioners and returned expatriates; and
—The skilled graduates of higher training institutes.

He disclosed that 67 per cent of the 15,000 applications at the Civil Service Commission were women.

'Ubaydat said that the government had taken a number of measures to stem foreign labour. These included the non-renewal of work permits for job seekers with the public sector and non-employment of foreigners with local contractors.

He said the government had agreed with the World Bank to provide easy loans and grants for the National Employment and Development Fund to help small-scale industries. He did not give any figures however.

'Ubaydat said that the Ministry of Labour employment offices had helped find jobs for 6,750 applicants in 1990 out of a total of 15,000 who applied.

House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar suggested the House continue to discuss the issue in another session after the 'Id al-Adha holiday [13 July]. The House approved the motion and the floor was given to other deputies.

Among those addressing the House during Wednesday's session were Mutayr al-Bustanji (Al-Karak), Nayif Abu-Tayih (central bedouins), Mohammad al-'Alawinah (Irbid), Faysal Ibn-Jazi (south bedouins), Jamal al-Khurayshah (central bedouins) and Nayif al-Hadid (Amman).

All deputies called for radical reforms in the society's perception towards work, education and employment.

In an emotional plea to the government, Deputy al-Hadid said he was "ashamed of hungry people who look to us for decent jobs and lives."

He called on the prime minister and ministers to visit the badia region and listen to people and see their problems.

Referring to a visit by the Cabinet to the south of the country in February, during which the prime minister approved subsidies to southern farmers, al-Hadid said: "It is not permissible to deal with the south differently from the north; they must be equal; those are poor and these are poor too."

Al-Hadid criticised banks for failing to invest in the country. "There are banks stronger than the government," he said. "They must invest their money in the country, for the country for Jordanians."

Al-Hadid strongly criticised Arab governments who bar Jordanian trucks from entering their countries. "We defend them and defend their honour; they should close their border in our faces," [sentence as published] he said.

He called for the establishment of a national insurance company. "Jordan is the only Arab country without a national insurance company," he said. "All insurance companies collect our money and invest it abroad."

Al-Jazi called for companies and private enterprises to take in the unemployed to solve the problem.

Al-'Alawinah called on the government to provide 3,000 farmer families with three milk cows each to raise. He said such project would secure 18,000 jobs, save $18 million a year in hard currency used for importing milk and ensure fresh and opposed to dry milk.

Upper House Endorses Military Service Draft Law

JN2806101990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Jun 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Wednesday approved a draft law on compulsory national service referred to it by the Lower House which had approved it on June 16.

The endorsement followed a lengthy debate by the House's legal committee which was convened immediately after the regular session to review the draft, acting upon a call by Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Addressing the full Senate session, which was chaired by Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi, Badran said the draft law on conscription should be given priority over other matters to give the chance to those required to do the national service and have been away from Jordan for a long time to return to the country during the 'Id al-Adha feast next week.

Under the law, Jordanian expatriates and their sons will be exempted from doing military service in exchange for a payment of an amount to be fixed by the government.

Badran had told the Lower House of Parliament meeting on June 16 that about 40,000 Jordanians could benefit from the law.

Although no Cabinet decision has been announced about the amount to be paid for exemption from military service, informed sources said it could be $10,000.

According to the prime minister, the government intends to scrap regulations allowing expatriates the chance to postpone military service until they are 37 years of age, provided they are working or studying abroad, once the new law comes into force.

Acting on recommendation from the legal committee the Upper House also approved an amendment to a law on Sharia courts and another amendment on the formation of these courts, referred to the House by the Lower House of Parliament.

The Upper House also decided to send a cable of condolences to the government and people of Iran on the death of tens of thousands of people in the recent earthquakes. House members observed a minute of silence in mourning over the dead and recited verses of the Holy Koran.

The House decided to send a cable of appreciation to Arab countries which, this year, provided financial assistance to Jordan in implementation of last month's Baghdad summit meeting.

At the outset of the meeting a Royal decree was read out calling for the House's current session to be convened to review 31 draft laws and to discuss other subjects which included: the Jewish immigration to Palestine, the government's economic policies, especially pricing and unemployment, the government's informational and educational policies and the 1987-1988 audit bureau report.

'Awn Reportedly Represented in New Government

NC2906084490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi will recieve French Ambassador Rene Ala at noon today. They will review the outcome of French Envoy Francois Scheer's contacts regarding the Lebanese crisis.

Citing what it termed informed sources, AL-NAHAR said the French move still proceeds from the established conditions, which Paris defined in its dealings on the Lebanese situation. According to the sources, these conditions call for supporting legitimacy and implementing the al-Ta'if accord.

The same sources told AL-NAHAR that the issue of 'Awn has entered the phase of solution and that 'Awn will be represented in a new government that might be formed after about a month.

Consignment of Algerian Military Aid Arrives

NC2806170690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The first consignment of Algerian aid to the Lebanese Army arrived at the port of Tripoli this morning. The aid includes military vehicles, equipment, and spare parts.

(Nur al-Din Baghdad al-Dayij), charge d'affaires of the Algerian Embassy in Lebanon; and Captain (Rammash), military attache at the Algerian Embassy, supervised the transfer of the aid. Staff Brigadier General Yahya Ra'd, commander of the 2d Brigade, attended the handing-over ceremony as representative of Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. The ceremony was also attended by Staff Colonel 'Ali Shu'ayb, director of the intelligence branch in the north; and Colonel Samir al-Qadi.

On belahf of Gen. Lahhud, Brig. Gen. Ra'd thanked the Algerian charge d'affairs for the aid and for all of Algeria's efforts to staunch bloodshed in Lebanon and support the process of rebuilding and uniting the Army.

Hubayqah Views Alleged Ja'ja'-Israel Agreement

NC2806193190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Elie Hubayqah, the Lebanese Forces executive committee chairman, has disclosed that [Lebanese Forces Commander] Samir Ja'ja' has signed an agreement with Israel that between 20,000 and 40,000 Christian Palestinians will be transported to Jubayl and Kasrawan.

In an interview with Kuwait's AL-QABAS, Hubayqah said the Israeli boats sail daily to the Jubayl port, while Ja'ja''s boats are sailing to Haifa port as part of the existing military cooperation between the two sides.

Hubayqah expressed surprise that the legitimacy would agree to an alliance with a party that derives its strength from Israel, saying that the legitimacy will be vulnerable if the al-Ta'if agreement is thrown to the wind.

He reiterated his rejection of the president's stay in East Beirut. He denied that he had facilitated the transport of weapons and ammunition to 'Awn, asserting that his relations with 'Awn are not developed enough to form an alliance with him.

Israelis Said Building Settlement in Border Strip

NC2906073190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] People arriving from the occupied border strip area have stated that the occupation forces have brought prefabricated houses to the area near Mays al-Jabal township in the occupied strip and have begun building a settlement there. Security sources in the south fear this step will pave the way for the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

3 Injured in Blast at Tyre Camp Fatah Office

NC2806141990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] AFP has reported that three Palestinians were injured when an explosive device went off in a Fatah office in the al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre last night. The agency said that extreme tension followed the explosion.

In another development, violent clashes with heavy- and medium-caliber artillery are continuing between the South Lebanese Army and gunmen belonging to fundamentalist organizations along the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir combat lines in the South.

Hizballah: Amal, 'Zionist Enemy' Shelled Towns

NC2906080790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] A responsible media source in Hizballah has stated the following: Pursuing their transgression in continuing their war on the Islamic resistance, the gangs of Amal's Birri and Hubayqah expanded their attacks on Iqlim al-Tuffah villages. In the past two days, these gangs used scores of 82- and 120-mm shells to bombard the towns of Kafr Milki, Jba', and 'Ayn Qana. Three people were wounded and a number of vehicles were burned as a result.

These acts of aggression coincided with violent Zionist shelling of the al-Mashari' sector of Jba' township. The shelling, which involved 120-mm projectiles, originated from the enemy post on Radar Hill. The Zionist enemy also shelled the Islamic resistance positions in Jabal Safi from its emplacements in (Bi'r Kallab).

U.S. Policy Preparing for 'Israeli Aggression'

JN2906074690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Jun 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH focuses today on U.S. policy, which is hostile to Arabs and to Arab rights. Under the headline "U.S. Policy Is No Longer Tolerable," AL-BA'TH says: After U.S. diplomacy succeeded in securing the emigration of hundreds of thousands of Jews to occupied Palestine, the White House kept the promise made by its former master, Ronald Reagan, to finance Jewish emigration regardless of the cost. The U.S. Administration claims that it is opposed to settling Jews in the West Bank and Gaza while giving Israel $7 billion in addition to a further $3 billion—the annual amount of U.S. assistance to Israel. This is in addition to West Europe's and Japan's cooperation in financing the plan to settle Jews announced recently by the Jewish Agency. Thus, the deception practiced by the West, and led by Washington, to deceive the Arabs is now clear.

AL-BA'TH adds: Washington not only denies Palestinian rights, but is also helping Israel to expand. Thus, U.S. policy is to make preparations for an Israeli aggression that would change the course of international efforts to deal with the new reality imposed by the aggression.

AL-BA'TH says that Arabs must unite their position not only against U.S. policy but also against the causes of imbalance that are fragmenting Arab ranks in order to peddle the expansionist Israeli scheme.

AL-BA'TH says: We call on the Arabs to deal with America according to the principle of reciprocity of interests, because the time for tolerating American impartiality must end, as all American measures underscore the depth and breadth of American hostility toward Arab causes and rights.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Regardless of America's excuses, they harbor malice and hostility and will stop at nothing to kill Arab time in the interests of Zionist expansion.

Jordan, Egypt Seek Resumption of Syrian-UK Ties

JN2806203090 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 27 Jun 90 p 8

[Text] Damascus—AL-ITTIHAD—Jordan and Egypt are making persistent efforts to arrange the resumption of diplomatic relations between Syria and Britain. This was revealed to AL-ITTIHAD by Arab diplomatic sources in Damascus. The sources said these efforts may lead to meetings between Syrian and British officials which could be held in Cairo soon.

The sources added that Damascus does not favor the continued break of relations with London, but, at the same time, it is not ready to submit to extortion and political and economic harassment to make it go back on its political constants. Moreover, Damascus believes that the British Government was very hasty in making unfair decisions against it.

For a resumption of relations with Britain, Syria lays down the condition that all British political and economic sanctions be abolished before a direct dialogue can begin in a constructive manner serving the interest of the two countries.

Observers in the Syrian capital have noted that the three Syrian dailies highlighted a report on the opening of a Syrian products fair in London last Wednesday. The observers believe that highlighting this report, albeit late, reflects a clear improvement in the media relations between the two countries and is a move toward resuming diplomatic relations.

European circles in Damascus believe that the resumption of relations is only a matter of time and that London is the side that stands to benefit from the resumption, especially since Damascus is a major factor in two important domestic and foreign political topics in Britain. The first concerns the British hostages in Beirut. The British prime minister is under enormous pressure to make overtures to Damascus, which expressed readiness to cooperate with all states to secure the release of hostages on humanitarian grounds.

The second is the Middle East conflict and London's role in finding and proposing solutions to the crisis. This role will remain ineffective as long as there are no British-Syrian relations. In addition, there is growing political and popular demand in Britain for the resumption of relations with Damascus because of the advantages to Britain.

In conclusion, the sources say that the British prime minister will not be able resist for long the pressures demanding relations. Moreover, the parties working to have these relations resumed are currently active. According to the sources, resumption is expected within the next three months.

AL-BA'TH Reacts to Sharon Remarks on Settlements

JN2806113690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Damascus, 28 Jun (SANA)—The newspaper AL-BA'TH has described Ari'el Sharon's recent statements on settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories as soap bubbles and lip service.

In today's editorial entitled "Misleading Statements Do Not Conceal Settlement Activity," the paper says: Sharon and his government insist on the Israeli individual's right to settle wherever he chooses on the land of Israel. The land of Israel, they claim, is not just the West Bank and Gaza, but rather all the land stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates.

AL-BA'TH continues: What is currently taking place should increase Arab concern and awareness of the

dangers surrounding them and consolidate their conviction that the war criminals and those who support expansionist plans and advocate racial superiority will not come to the negotiations table to reach a just and comprehensive peace, because nothing will force them to abandon Arab land, acknowledge the rights of the Palestinians, or renege on the Torah plans to establish the Zionist empire.

The paper adds: If we, the Arabs, do not take the initiative to rise and pool our resources to protect ourselves and our property, oil, honor, dignity, and both our present and future, no one will do it for us. Those who do not defend themselves will find no one to defend them.

AL-BA'TH concludes by affirming that Syria has always stretched its hand to support the Arabs in facing the projected grave dangers and entering the crucial battle which will not have mercy on the hesitant, negligent, or defeatists, wherever they may be.

Arab Unity Would Strengthen EC Position

JN2806172690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Zionist quarters were dissatisfied with the EC summit statement in Dublin as they viewed it as a direct blow to their schemes. The statement strongly condemned Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories, continuous transgressions on human rights, and violations of the Geneva Convention on the safety of civilians in wartime. The statement also condemned Israel's settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories and urged the United Nations to play an effective role to protect Arab citizens from the tyranny of the Zionist occupation.

In a perverse attempt to reshuffle the cards and to equate the tyrannical Zionist persecution with the legitimate Palestinian struggle for liberation, an Israeli spokesman claimed the European statement was unbalanced and did not touch on the violence being practiced by the Palestinians. The Israeli spokesman claimed the Palestinian people were engaged in large-scale terrorism and that Israel found itself compelled to impose law and order by force. The fact is that such Zionist allegations have become completely exposed to all world governments and peoples. A popular revolution against the occupation, the Palestinian intifadah has unveiled the aggressive and expansionist face of Zionism and its appalling crimes against mankind. Events in the occupied homeland, the occupation forces' flagrant war in which all types of weapons are being used against Arab citizens, including toxic gases, and these forces' killing of children and infants have exposed Israel's terrorist and racist nature and are reminiscent of the crimes of the Nazis of old.

Although Shamir and his aides have been recently trying to deceive the world public with reassuring statements and talk about peace, public opinion has not been deceived by these false pronouncements. It considers that responding to the Palestinian people's rights, respecting international resolutions and charters, and yielding to the will of the international community demanding a just and comprehensive settlement is the yardstick for the Israeli rulers' commitment to peace.

It must be pointed out that the Dublin summit statement came in the wake of these misleading attempts, a situation that confirms that the EEC states are convinced of Israel's unchanged hostility to peace in the region and to the legitimacy of the Arab struggle against the Zionist occupation, which is now acquiring an aggressive, expansionist nature. The Dublin statement condemned settlement attempts in the occupied Arab territories, called for respect for Arab rights, and demanded an effective UN role in protecting civilian residents. In other words, the European statement entails an indirect call for the United States to take a balanced stand not contravening truth and justice—this through activating the UN Security Council and not obstructing its resolutions. The recent U.S. veto has prevented the UN Security Council from dispatching an international mission to the occupied Arab territories. Washington used the veto on the pretext that such a resolution hampers peace efforts. The result was the formation of the most extremist and most aggressive government in the history of Israel, and this government's outright rejection of peace efforts, including those of the United States.

The European position in Dublin should be supported with initiatives aimed at activating the role of the UN Security Council and containing Israel's aggressive schemes. Undoubtedly, a unified Arab position strengthens the European position. The international community responds to the Arab struggle to the extent the Arabs show sincerity to their cause.

Afghanistan

Pakistani Charge Summoned on Airspace Violations

LD2806192190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The Information and Publication Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that the Pakistani charge d'affairs in Kabul was today summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the following protest on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan was conveyed to him by the director of the first political section:

Reliable sources of the country report that two jet aircraft belonging to the Pakistani Air Force took off from [word indistinct] yesterday at 1234 and entered the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan from the direction of Dorahi, coordinates 34 60 122 93 at 1239 at a speed of 900 km per hour and at a height of 6,500 meters. After two minutes of reconnaisance flight the airplanes returned to Pakistan at 1241.

Such aggressive actions are against the sanctity of the airspace of Afghanistan and are a violation of the accepted international norms and standards and an open violation of the Geneva accords. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan expresses its strong protest to the Pakistani authorities.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan asks the responsible authorities of Pakistan to refrain from such violations in the future. Obviously the responsibility for the repetition of such actions will rest on the Government of Pakistan.

Rocket, Artillery Fire Exchanged Around Kabul

Five Missiles Hit Kabul

LD2606183890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Extremists today fired five U.S.-made Sakr-type surface- to-surface missiles at the residential regions of Kabul city, as a result of which one citizen was injured.

The military section of BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that these missiles, fired from the west of the city, hit residential regions.

According to another report the units and subunits in the general command of Kabul garrison inflicted blows on the extremist positions in the surroundings of Paghman District in order to prevent the terrorist actions by the extremists, as a result of which 19 extremists were crushed and another 13 were injured.

A huge weapons and ammunition convoy of the extremists was destroyed in the surroundings of Kobaki region, Paghman District.

Missiles Seized

LD2606144490 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] In order to prevent terrorist actions by the extremists, the organs of the Ministry of State Security today carried out a mopping up operation in the environs of Koh-e Safi. The BIA military section reported that during the operation six surface-to-surface U.S. missiles of the Sakr-30 type and 15 kgs explosives which had been prepared to be launched against populated areas, were recovered and removed.

Organs of the Ministry of State Security also recovered seven surface-to-surface U.S. made missiles of the Sakr type in the environs of Dehsabz District today and seized them. The BIA military section states that the aforementioned missiles were in position and had been prepared by the extremists to be fired against residential areas and crowded regions in Kabul city. They were seized and neutralized with the complete cooperation of the local people.

Kabul Units Destroy Arsenal

LD2606185290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] As a result of artillery fire by the Kabul Garrison General Command units, a supply base of the extremist groups in Koh-e Safi was set on fire last night and was destroyed. The military section of the BIA reports that as a result of the fire, hundreds of enemy Sakr-30 and Sakr-20 ground-to-ground rockets and thousands of mortar shells, which were to be fired on the residential and crowded sections of Kabul city, exploded and were destroyed. The explosion could be heard at a great distance. A number of base guards were either killed or wounded as a result of the explosion.

Five Killed in Missile Attack

LD2806164390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Nine surface-to-surface missiles were fired today by extremists, resulting in five citizens of Kabul being martyred and 14 others injured. The injured were transferred to hospitals immediately for treatment.

The missiles were fired from the west and north directions of Kabul at the residential areas and were of the Sakr and cluster type American missiles which are being put at the disposal of the warmongering extremist groups by the United States, the so-called defender of human rights, against all international norms and standards in order to continue war and bloodshed in our country.

The missiles landed on parts of the third, fourth, fifth, and seventh districts of Kabul city. The attacks also caused financial damage.

Resistance Commanders Agree To Intensify Jihad

BK2906044890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1725 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, June 28 (AFP)—A nationwide assembly of resistance commanders meeting in Afghanistan agreed to intensify efforts to topple the Soviet-backed Kabul regime, a press release received here Thursday said.

The assembly, or shura, held June 22-25 in the Khowst District of Paktia Province in eastern Afghanistan was attended by 300 military commanders from all 29 Afghan provinces representing all resistance parties, including the Iran-based Afghan Shiites, according to the joint communique.

The Paktia gathering, a sequel to a previous meeting of some 40 commanders in the same area in early May, agreed to create a joint organization to resolve "legal problems and disputes" among the mujahidin inside Afghanistan, the announcement said.

The field commanders resolved to "coordinate and organize in harmony expanded military activities necessary to dislodge the imposed regime in Afghanistan," the statement said.

Vowing to adopt effective and practical measures to keep alive the "jihad (holy war) spirit" of the Afghan nation, the commanders rejected any formula or plan for settling the war that did not have the consent of the "leadership of the jihad and our Moslem nation."

The communique came as reports from Washington said experts from the two superpowers were to meet soon in the U.S capital to work out a speedy solution to the 11-year-old conflict in Afghanistan.

"Any imposed solution will be considered by the mujahidin commanders as a denial of the right to self-determination of the Afghan nation and a direct interference in the internal affairs of our country," the statement said.

The field commanders made it clear that the shura was not aimed at creating "distance between the political leaders and jihad commanders as both are the real representatives of the Afghan people and are inseparable."

This was an apparent reference to the Pakistan-based rebel Afghan Interim Government (AIG), which recently renewed a plan for elections in Afghanistan.

"We don't want any confrontation with the AIG," said one of the participants, Commander Amin Wardak.

A 79-member commission was set up by the Paktia meeting to help implement the decisions, he said. The gathering was presided over by Khalifa Abdul Wahid Naqshabandi, a religious commander from the Sunni Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami faction. The participants also included field commanders from four Tehran-based Shiite groups and representatives from the fundamentalist Sunni Hezb-e Eslami party of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

A leading commander from northern Afghanistan, Ahmed Shah Mas'ud, did not attend the Paktia meeting but sources close to him said he would be sending a letter to the organizers and would "probably" support their decisions. They said Mr. Mas'ud could not go to Paktia personally because of the "short notice" he had received about the assembly.

The communique coincided with the congress in Kabul of the Afghan ruling party which reelected President Najibullah for another four-year term and changed the party's name to "Hezb-e Watan" (Homeland Party).

"A mere change of name makes no difference, as the ruling party was and remains a communist clique imposed by Moscow," Mr. Wardak said. He revealed that a third shura of military commanders was planned two months from now.

The decision to create a mechanism to heal rifts among the mujahidin was regarded as an important move in view of the rebel failure so far to score any major success, although fighting has continued in different areas of the country.

'Heavy Clashes' Take Place Between Rebel Groups

LD2506171690 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] In continuation of differences and revengeful clashes between Rabbani and Gulbuddin groups recently heavy clashes have taken place in the Provinces of Nangarhar, Vardak, Lowgar, and Faryab. The military section of BAKHTAR reports that as a result of the clashes which have taken place in Khugianay District of Nangarhar, in Zarghun and Kolangar of Lowgar, in Jalez of Vardak, and in Pashtun Kowt and Khvajeh Siah Push of Faryab, 33 rebels including (Norgol) and (Kamkay), two ringleaders, were killed and 26 others were injured. Also (?3) people associated with the Gulbuddin group have been taken prisoners by the rival group. Clashes continue in these areas.

Artillery Destroys 'Extremist' Weapons Dump

LD2806205590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] As a result of artillery blows by the armed forces stationed in Sorobi District, a huge extremist weapons and ammunition dump located in the surroundings of this district was recently set on fire and eliminated. Various weapons and surface-to-surface missiles were stored at the dump which was completely destroyed. Three of its guards were also killed.

Security Ministry Buys Stingers From Opposition

LD2806212790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The organs of the Ministry of State Security today purchased two U.S.-made Stinger type surface-to-air missiles from the armed opposition groups in the region of Parwan Province in accordance with decree No. 204 dated 10 October 1987.

The military section of BIA reports that the purchase price of these missiles was paid to the opposition side in accordance with the decree.

Bangladesh

Indian Minister Takes Part in Water Use Talks

Need for Cooperation Stressed

BK2106160890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] The 31st meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission [JRC] began in Dhaka today with both sides stressing the need for sharing the waters of the Ganges and other common rivers. The 15-member Bangladesh delegation to the two-day meeting is being led by Water Resources Minister A.B.M. Ghulam Mostafa. The 12-member Indian team is being headed by State Minister for Water Resources Manobhai Kotadia.

Mr. Ghulam Mostafa, in his opening statement, said the two sides should reach a consensus on sharing the waters of common rivers to strengthen the existing friendship. Mr. Kotadia also expressed his desire to work together to reach an understanding with Bangladesh on water sharing.

Mr. Kotadia also called on President Ershad in the capital. The president expressed the hope that the JRC meeting will be fruitful. He said, given the political will, all irritants between the two countries can be resolved.

'Major Decisions' Reached

BK2206095690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission [JRC] has taken several major decisions on cooperation between the two countries for effective flood management. The Commission also directed the secretaries committee to work out a formula for sharing the water from common rivers, particularly for Ganges and Tista Rivers, before the commencement of the next dry season. It also decided to take steps for sorting out local problems like localized floods, erosion, and river pollution. This was decided at the two-day meeting of the JRC which concluded in Dhaka today.

AIR [All India Radio] Dhaka correspondent, Sanat Mukherji, reports that the JRC also accepted the final report of the India-Bangladesh task force on flood management for consideration of the respective governments. The task force has recommended an action plan for effective flood management through cooperation of the two countries. The next meeting of the JRC will be held in New Delhi next September.

The Indian delegation was led by the minister of state for water resources, Mr. Manobhai Kotadia. The Bangladesh team was led by its minister for irrigation, water resources, and flood control, Mr. Ghulam Mostafa. Later, talking to newsmen, Mr. Kotadia and Mr. Mostafa expressed their keen desire to find a solution to the problem of water sharing of common rivers and the flood problem in Bangladesh.

India

Dubey, Pakistan's Ahmad To Meet 18 Jul

BK2806130490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Talks between foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan on reducing tension on the borders will begin on the 18th of next month in Islamabad. The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, will be assisted by senior officials of the foreign office at the three-day talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad.

Disclosing the dates of the talks, an external affairs spokesman said that there is no fixed agenda for the discussion. He said that New Delhi has agreed to the talks proposed by Islamabad in the context of the government of India's oft-repeated objective to forge policies of good-neighborliness and to carry forward the process of building a firm and friendly relationship with Pakistan. India wants to build a regional climate of peace and stability and defuse tensions with Pakistan, he added.

Srinigar Official Wounded by Militants 29 Jun

BK2906090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] In Srinagar, the additional deputy commissioner, Mr. Abdul Aziz Khan, was shot at and injured by militants at his residence in Shaheed Ganj this morning. Quoting official sources, UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] reports that some militants entered Mr. Khan's residence and fired on him. Mr. Khan was immediately rushed to a hospital in a critical condition and operated upon.

Meanwhile, authorities relaxed curfew in Srinagar for eight hours from 0800 this morning. Shops and other business establishments, educational institutions, and central and state government offices are functioning normally.

Punjab-Pakistan Border Fence To Be Extended

BK2906032990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Nearly two-third of India's 236 km-long border with Pakistan in the Punjab sector will be fenced soon to check infiltration and the smuggling of illicit arms. Speaking to newsmen in Gurdaspur yesterday, the minister of state for home, Mr Subodh Kant Sahay, said a proposal to this effect was recently cleared by the Home Ministry. He said it is also proposed to provide floodlight facility on a 35 km stretch on the border. At present about 100 km of the fenced area has this facility.

6 'Terrorists' Arrested in Kashmir 27 Jun

BK2806161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation in the Kashmir Valley remained peaceful today, barring a minor incident of fire caused by a bomb blast in the office building of the Geology and Mining department at Neelam Chowk in Srinagar. Curfew relaxation, which was originally given for five hours in the city, was extended to seven hours till 1600 this afternoon. Government offices, business establishments and shops functioned normally. Transport plied as usual.

Meanwhile, security forces arrested six terrorists in a raid on their hideout in Srinagar yesterday. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered during the raid in Bajpura village of Kupwara District, and Samia village of Baramula District.

Gujral Faults Pakistani Response to Peace Package

BK2806163490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral, has reiterated India's policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. Addressing an international seminar in New Delhi today, he said India is striving to improve its relations with the neighbors.

Mr. Gujral said Pakistan's response to India's package of confidence-building measures was not very encouraging. He said New Delhi is committed to the Simla Agreement, as through this only the problems between the two countries can be sorted out.

Singh Calls for Dialogue in Sri Lanka

BK2906031290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has urged the Sri Lankan Government to make efforts to have a dialogue with all the parties concerned for finding a political solution to the ethnic problem and restore normalcy in the island. In an interview to a fortnightly, Mr. Singh said India stands for the sovereignty and integrity of all neighbors. He said India will apply all diplomatic pressure on Sri Lanka to take care of the safety and security of the people of Indian origin in that country. He, however, made it clear that no militant group will be allowed to use Indian soil as a base for their activities.

Answering questions on Kashmir, the prime minister said that India will be firm with secessionists and fair with the people. He reiterated India's commitment to have friendly relations with Pakistan. He said Pakistan should also make up its mind and respond positively.

To a question on his proposal of a national government, Mr. Singh said he has not changed his mind.

Ministry Voices Concern Over Sri Lanka Conflict

BK2806160290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] India has expressed grave concern over the increasing intensity of the conflict in Sri Lanka and the growing escalation in the level of violence. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said New Delhi is anguished by reports of large-scale loss of life, civilian sufferings, and hundreds of thousands of people being rendered homeless. Aerial attacks in heavily populated areas is a matter of particular concern. The statement said the government of India reiterates the utmost importance it attaches to maintaining ethnic harmony in Sri Lanka. An end to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka can only be brought about through dialogue among all parties concerned and a political solution. Such a solution should fully meet the legitimate Tamil demands and aspirations within the framework of the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. The government of India on its part reaffirms that it will not allow its territory to be used by any group of militants as a base for their activities, the statement added.

The cabinet committee on political affairs met in New Delhi this evening and discussed the situation in Sri Lanka.

28 Jun Bomb Blast Injures 8 in Assam

BK2806164090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Eight persons were seriously injured, when a powerful bomb exploded today in a weekly market at Goreshwar village in Kamrup District of Assam. Official reports received at Guwahati said that the condition of some of the injured is critical. They have been admitted to a local hospital.

Police suspect that the bomb was planted in the market last night by Bodo [tribal] miscreants. Senior police official from Guwahati have rushed to the spot and efforts are on to apprehend the culprits.

Iran

International Earthquake Relief Effort Continues

Velayati Thanks UN Envoy

LD2806123190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] At a meeting this morning with Foreign Minister Velayati, Mr. M'hamad Essaafi, the UN secretary general's special envoy for natural disasters expressed the UN secretary general's condolences to our foreign minister on the sad occasion of the earthquake in northern and northwestern Iran. He then said: The United Nations will make efforts toward the provisional settlement of the earthquake victims and the reconstruction of Iranian towns and villages by bringing about cooperation among the international specialized agencies and various countries of the world.

Thanking the UN secretary general and his special envoy, Mr. Velayati explained the various dimensions of the earthquake disaster, adding: The Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to profit by the experiences of various UN organs in the reconstruction of the region. In so doing, it welcomes the help of the international community.

Referring to weather conditions in the stricken area, Mr. Velayati stressed that reconstruction must begin as soon as possible.

Habibi Thanks Austrian Official

NC2806081090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The Austrian deputy foreign minister met with First Vice President Mr. Habibi yesterday afternoon. During this meeting, the Austrian deputy foreign minister gave the first vice president warm greetings from his president to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and expressed the sympathies of the Austrian Government and nation on the tragic earthquake in the northern and northwestern areas of our country.

During this meeting, the Austrian deputy foreign minister referred to the two countries' friendly relations in the political, economic, and cultural fields, and called for their expansion. Referring to the fact that the Austrian president was UN secretary general for some time, he expressed hopes that his unsparing support for Mr. Perez de Cuellar would help to accelerate the implementation of Resolution 598.

Mr. Habibi, our first vice president, expressed gratitude for the message of solidarity from the Austrian Government and nation. He said: Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Austria have always been good and friendly and Iran places stress on the expansion of the two countries' political, economic, and cultural relations.

On the full implementation of Resolution 598 he said: The establishment of security in the Persian Gulf and the region is among the important elements for calm and stability in the world, and the establishment of a comprehensive peace between Iran and Iraq, which should take into account all of Iran's rights on land and in the waters, will lead to a solution of many of the region's problems.

More Foreign Relief Aid Arrives

LD2806172490 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, June 28, IRNA—Three more planeloads of relief aid landed at Mehrabad Airport bringing to 174 the number of civil and military aircraft unloading foreign quake relief in Tehran as of 13:30 hours local time (10:00 GMT)

Besides unloading relief consignments, the Islamic Republic Air Force has airlifted supplies and medical personnel to quake-stricken areas aboard its aircraft in a total of 334 shuttles over the week.

It has also transferred 7,400 injured survivors of the quake which struck parts of Gilan and Zanjan Provinces on June 21, to hospitals in various parts of the country.

From Pakistan, a Boeing 707 aircraft carrying 35 tons of relief goods arrived here today, the seventh flight from that country over the past five days. [passage omitted]

Aid From Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

LD2806123990 Tehran Dometic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] In order to assist the earthquake victims, new consignments of foodstuffs, medicine, pharmaceutical equipment, blankets, tents, generators, blood plasma containers, clothing, stretchers, water filters, water flasks, and disinfectant powders have arrived in our country on 20 flights from Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Oman. These flights arrived in Tehran between 1800 yesterday and 1200 today.

Earthquake Relief Work Continues; Efforts Viewed

Interior Minister on Efforts

LD2906132390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Interview with Interior Minister Nuri by unidentified Central News Unit reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Reporter] Mr. Nuri, in view of the fact that you have been in the region from the very first day when the earthquake occurred, please tell us about the present situation—up to the time when you were in the region—and which organizations have been the ones which have been most effective in providing relief work.

[Nuri] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At the moment, our most important and most difficult problem is the issue of housing. You know that there are many stricken areas in that region that may not have had many casualties, but they do not have any housing left, or their casualties may be only one or two percent, but they have no housing. The destructive nature of the earthquake has been extremely high. The figure which I had estimated about the number of housing units needed was 50,000, but in a meeting yesterday the brothers from the Reconstruction Jihad, on the basis of estimates they had made in villages, provided a figure of more than 100,000. My estimate was that we had approximately 300,000 homeless in our villages, but their estimate was about 500,000 or more than that. Of course, the Iranian census center has made a quick start to provide a speedy and accurate census so that during the next eight or 10 days we may have the general census regarding the number of those killed or wounded, or families which are left without a bread-winner, as well as about the general human resources of the region. They will also provide figures about the destruction of homes and the difficulties which are faced by agriculture, livestock, water, irrigation, and so forth. [passage omitted]

My request from our dear people now is that they provide us with their thoughts, with their assistance, and serious support for the provision of temporary housing for our people—maybe only in the form of one room, one [words indistinct] in the form of light and small rooms or units, in such a way that this winter our people may not suffer from frostbite, death, or injury. In view of the situation in the region I fear that if we cannot provide their needs we will be faced with serious threats in the future. [passage omitted]

Seventy-two hours after the start of the earthquake—that is, by midnight on 24 June, which was 72 hours after the start of the earthquake—as a result of the assistance of the dear, noble, and heroic people of our country and with the assistance of the revolutionary forces and revolutionary organizations of our country—including the guards corps, the Reconstruction Jihad, and the revolution committee—and as a result of the assistance of various organizations which entered the region with all their capabilities—such as Tehran municipality, the Army Air Corps [havaniruz], the Air Force, the Roads Ministry, and other organisations—the situation was changed to such an extent that 72 hours later we nearly did not have any unburied corpses. There might have been an isolated corpse somewhere, but work progressed so fast and the forces acted with all their capability and all their capacity that 72 hours later we had buried all our corpses, the injured had been reduced to zero [as heard] from about noon on Saturday, all had been transferred from the region, and the issue of feeding the people in towns and villages was organized as much as possible. We had some difficulties regarding tents up to Saturday. The major and minor roads of the region, even rural roads, were mainly reopened. Our forces started a major campaign regarding the listing and collection of people's personal properties. In view of the fact that people were naturally grief-stricken and preoccupied, we wanted to help them as much we could, and our forces did this. They started to remove the rubble in order to collect personal effects.

[Reporter] Thank you.

Casualties, Foreign Aid Updated

NC2806123590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0452 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Center]

[Text] In the early hours of Thursday 20 June, Iran was hit by a great tragedy for which the entire world is deeply sorrowful. Half an hour after midnight, on Thursday morning, an earthquake registering 7.3 on the Richter scale shook the Gilan, Tehran, Mazandaran, East Azerbaijan, Hamadan, Zanjan, Kordestan, and Markazi provinces. The epicenter was in the Deylaman area which separates Langarud and Lahijan, and the tremor shook Gilan and Zanjan provinces with the same strength for more than two minutes. The earthquake affected approximately 11,000 square kilometers, and the level of destruction in this area was between five and 100 percent.

Seismologists have said that the quake was equal to the strength of the explosion of 900 atomic bombs, each with 1 million [weight not specified] of TNT. This is unprecedented in this century.

Immediately upon learning of the extent of the destructive earthquake on Thursday, the Iranian nation displayed national solidarity and mobilization and rushed to the quake-stricken area, everyone trying to do his best to help the survivors of this horrific tragedy.

In Rudbar, Manjil, and Lowshah 50,000 houses were 90 to 100 percent destroyed, and the areas of Emamzadeh Hashem, Deylaman, Lahijan, and Ashkavar in Rudsar were 80 percent destroyed. In the very first hours after the quake, landslides blocked the Karaj-Chalus and Qazvin-Rasht axes, and traffic was halted for some time on these highways.

Many bodies of the victims of this tragic incident were dug up from underneath the rubble during the first two days in areas where access was easier, and the survivors were moved to safe places and tents, but since 60 percent of the villages in Gilan were inaccessible by land, the bodies of a large number of the victims remained buried for several days. But finally, with the improvement of the situation in the area and with the help of the army air corps of the Armed Forces, the people and the relief workers gained access to these areas and were able to extend help of every kind.

Currently 99 percent of the bodies of victims of this tragedy have been dug out from underneath the rubble

and the relief effort by the people continues uninterruptedly. The casualty toll of the tragic strong earthquake was 130,000 dead and wounded and 350,000 homeless. Of course the figures cited are approximate; precise figures cannot be obtained because of the vastness of the area that has been destroyed and because of the need for rapid assistance to be given to the survivors.

By displaying national solidarity and sympathy, our people have once again shown their devotion. As an example, so far 3 billion rials in cash assistance has been donated by our compatriots, while large quantities of the people's assistance in kind—for which a precise figure is not to hand because of the extent of the aid and because the effort is continuing—have been sent to relief headquarters. The flood of assistance continues.

So far 200,000 of the survivors have been housed in 40,000 tents and 200 equipped medical teams have been sent to the areas. The decontamination of the potable water in the quake-stricken areas has started, and 50,000 cubic meters of water has been purified.

The scale of this tragedy was so vast that the president stated after a seven-hour inspection tour of the area that the destruction is far greater than had been said and that the dimensions of the tragedy are more horrific than can be described.

The Islamic Republic's Red Crescent immediately called for help from international forums and organizations, and the president welcomed humanitarian assistance from abroad. The world extended its sympathies to the Islamic Republic of Iran on this unprecedented tragedy, and despite its political problems with some countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran did not set any limits for the assistance from governments except for the two countries of South Africa and Israel. It even announced that the peoples of countries that have no relations with Iran but who want to help can send their assistance to Iran through international organizations, especially through the International Red Cross which has offered great services since the earthquake.

France is among the countries that have extended noteworthy assistance. By the timely dispatch of equipped teams, it started its humanitarian steps in the relief operations. Also, the moral presence and relief by the delegations sent from Soviet Azerbaijan are noteworthy. Other humanitarian organizations and countries in the world have sent considerable amounts of cash, medicine, and medical equipment, as well as relief workers, to Iran. Ninety countries have announced their readiness to help the Iranian quake victims and consignments have been sent to Iran from 30 countries of the world.

Even though the humanitarian assistance by international organizations and philanthropic centers in foreign countries is noteworthy and something to be grateful for, nevertheless the vast dimensions of the destruction are greater than this. As stated by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the major emphasis is on the assistance and services by the resistant, humanitarian, and philanthropic people of the Islamic homeland. This assistance should, after completing its initial stage of helping the quake- stricken areas, continue until the complete reconstruction of these areas has been achieved and the destroyed areas flourish once again.

Relief Coordinators Appointed

LD2806122290 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri who is also in charge of the quake-stricken areas' affairs, Wednesday appointed four officials to coordinate the affairs.

The hojjat ol-eslam appointed his deputy for development affairs Rasul Zargar as the liaison between the ministry and all the earthquake follow-up headquarters in charge of reconstruction. These headquarters are established in the areas hit by the devastating earthquake last Thursday.

Interior Ministry Deputy for Planning Mas'ud Khansari is appointed the liaison between the interior minister and the headquarters in charge of relief aids.

Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohsen Aminzadeh is put in charge of coordinating news and publicity concerning the quake-stricken areas.

Finally, Deputy Foreign Minister Morteza Sarmadi is to coordinate arrival of foreign nations accompanying the relief aids.

Meanwhile, the interior minister submitted a report to the Council of Ministers on Wednesday [27 June] on accomplishments made in the quake-stricken areas.

In another development, the governor general of the southern province of Bushehr said on Wednesday that his province is volunteering to reconstruct one of the devastated cities in Gilan Province.

Gilan Damage Over $7 Billion

LD2806142290 Tehran IRNA in English 1337 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Rasht (Gilan), June 28, IRNA—Early estimations have put the damage inflicted by the devastating earthquake on the Caspian province of Gilan alone at 500 billion rials (dlrs. 7.14 bn).

According to vice president and head of the budget and planning organisation Mas'ud Roghani Zanjani, reconstruction of the stricken areas would have no effect on the first five year development plan, which went into effect this calendar year (started March 21).

For the current year, he said 27 billion rials (dlrs 385 mn) were set aside for natural disasters including floods and earthquake, but because of the massive destruction

caused by last Thursday's quake, more funds will be channelled towards reconstruction of affected areas.

Roghani Zanjani who is currently touring quake-stricken sites, said that another 29 billion rials (dlrs 414 mn) has been alloted to various economic, social and cultural activities during the Five-Year Plan.

1,755 Educational Centers Damaged

LD2806150390 Tehran IRNA in English 1402 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA—The quake flattened 1,755 educational centers in rural and urban areas of northwestern Iran, announced Deputy Education Minister Jalil Habibollahiyan Thursday [28 June].

Commenting on the 7.3 degree disaster which struck last week, he said "in Gilan Province, 1,120 educational centers having a total of 6,755 classrooms were turned into heaps of rubble overnight while 1,183 others suffered between 50 to 90 per cent damage."

In Zanjan Province, said Habibollahiyan, "635 educational centers were destroyed and 637 others badly damaged."

He said "tens of thousands of students who suffered as a result of the quake are now looking forward to national and international aid for rebuilding of their schools."

Strong Aftershocks Continue

LD2906095790 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA—An after-shock with an intensity of five degrees on the Richter scale shook Tehran at 20:51 hours local time (17:21 hours GMT) Thursday.

The epicenter of the quake was 200 kms. northwest of here according to the Geo-physics Institute of the Tehran University.

Another quake measuring 4.2 degrees shook Tehran 72 minutes later, which caused landslide followed by blockade of Qazvin-Rasht road in several points. The road however, was reopened several hours later.

The second quake occurred near the town of Rudbar, which was destroyed by a powerful earthquake last week.

Four minutes later at 22:06 hours (18:36 GMT) a milder tremor also trembled the northern and northwestern Iran.

Deputy Foreign Minister: No Thaw With U.S.

PM2606102690 Copenhagen DET FRI AKTUELT in Danish 22 Jun 90 p 18

[Report on interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi by Britta Sondergaard and Peter Rundle in Copenhagen: "The Man From Tehran"; date not given]

[Text] Apart from two heavily retouched photographs of a somber-looking Ayatollah Khomeyni, the walls are bare. The furnishings in the large apartment are Spartan: a couple of polished desks, a few bookcases with Islamic literature. In one corner of the flat there are a pair of slippers outside the little room set aside for prayer. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a patrician apartment in the Osterbro District, is a little piece of Persia in Copenhagen. Here the laws of Islam prevail: The bearded embassy official refuses to receive women unless they are wearing a veil or a headscarf. At the moment the apartment is the center of activity. The 38-year-old Iranian deputy foreign minister Mahmud Va'ezi is in town.

"To discuss improved relations with Denmark," Mahmud Va'ezi said in an interview with DET FRI AKTUELT. The chairman of the Folketing Foreign Affairs Council, Bjorn Elmquist (Liberal), describes Mahmud Va'ezi as one of the relatively moderate Iranian politicians who want to end Iran's international isolation. Bjorn Elmquist recently met with the Iranian deputy foreign minister to discuss the sensitive question of human rights in Iran.

Part of the background to the visit is undoubtedly the ruling clerics' desperate need for contacts with the rest of the world. After eight years of war against Iraq, Iran's economic position is worse than chaotic. The price of some foodstuffs has risen by 80 percent since last year. A large part of the 53 million Iranians have problems in obtaining food. A year after Ayatollah Khomeyni's death empty store shelves are the rule rather than the exception. And a swift solution of the problem in the form of trade agreements with the West is not imminent.

Mahmud Va'ezi seems not to understand the West's talk of violations of human rights in Iran. While millions of Iranians fled to the West after Khomeyni came to power in 1979, Va'ezi traveled in the opposite direction. He gave up his university studies in California in order to join the Islamic revolution.

"Thousands of us returned after the fall of the Shah," Va'ezi said.

Today he describes himself as a good Muslim who obeys the words of the Koran.

"In our country everyone has the freedom to express his views. Censorship does not exist. We have the free right to form parties, and the various religious groupings can have their representatives elected to parliament. We have both Jewish and Christian deputies. But naturally

Muslims dominate in political life, since 99 percent of the population belong to this faith," Va'ezi said.

[DET FRI AKTUELT] If there is no censorship in Iran, is it possible to write in a newspaper that Muslim law should be suspended and that the Communists should take over power instead?

(Long internal discussion with his advisers in Farsi.)

[Va'ezi] According to our Constitution you can print analyses of Marxism or liberalism, for example—you can see such things in the stores in Tehran. But propaganda which undermines the peace and calm of our society is forbidden.

[DET FRI AKTUELT] But the latest report from Amnesty International, the human rights organization, states that 1,500 Iranians were executed in 1989.

[Va'ezi] This information is incorrect. I do not know how many were executed. But the figure was reported on our radio. Amnesty's information is not without bias. They obtain their information exclusively from opposition groups outside Iran.

[DET FRI AKTUELT] Does the Iranian hierocracy intend to lift the death sentence against author Salman Rushdie?

[Va'ezi] The death sentence is a religious ordinance and no one can alter that sort of religious command. The sentence on Rushdie will remain valid as long as Islam exists. [Va'ezi ends]

Mahmud Va'ezi said that the government in Tehran wants to establish close ties with the rest of the world, and especially with West European countries. He also assured us that the extremist Iranian Muslims who support the principle of a "pure Islamic revolution" are in the minority. The Iranian Government is led by comparatively moderate forces, Va'ezi said.

"We have a very strong and stable government. The strongest since the 1979 revolution."

Despite the wish to break the country's international isolation, however, Mahmud Va'ezi rejected the notion that his government is interested in reestablishing relations with the United States, which is still described in Iran as the Great Satan.

"Since the beginning of the Islamic revolution the United States has had a negative attitude to Iran in all respects. For example, the United States has frozen Iranian assets worth $12 billion. Why does Washington adhere to this decision? If the U.S. Government wants to show goodwill, it must guarantee Iran these billions. It was the United States, too, which shot down an Iranian passenger aircraft in July 1988. There is no thaw in relations between Iran and the United States, and for us the United States does not represent the West."

While the United States is the enemy, Va'ezi made no secret of the fact that the Lebanese Hizballah movement is one of Iran's friends. According to the assessments of the majority of Western experts, Hizballah is responsible for taking Westerners hostage in Lebanon. After the release of two American hostages at the end of April there are still 16 Western hostages being held in cellars in the slums of Beirut.

"Hizballah is a well know political group that has many supporters among the Lebanese population. They are our friends and our coreligionists," Va'ezi said. He totally rejected the notion that at the present time Hizballah is directly implicated in the taking of hostages. And he said that the Iranian Government will play its part to secure the hostages' release.

"But since the Lebanese release of two hostages in April, we are waiting for Israel to make a similar release of prisoners. We are trying to get the European hostages freed. The situation surrounding the U.S. hostages is more complicated," Va'ezi said.

[DET FRI AKTUELT] Are the hostages alive?

[Va'ezi] I have no detailed information. But I know that some of them are alive. [Va'ezi ends]

Mahmud Va'ezi confirmed the recent reports that Iran's former archenemy Iraq is coming in from the cold. But so far no peace treaty has been signed between the two countries. But the days are now gone when the Iranian regime demanded publicly that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn be hanged in the main square of Baghdad before there could be a peace settlement.

"That type of proclamation was made in a war situation. Today we are on our way toward peace. Saddam Husayn has asked for an Iranian-Iraqi meeting, and we naturally welcome his initiative. I believe in peace negotiations with Iraq soon," the Iranian deputy foreign minister said.

Editorial on Settling Claims With United States

NC2806173090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran-U.S. Settlement: Financial Only"]

[Text] Iran and the U.S. took a great stride in solving their financial disputes at The Hague when they agreed on a settlement last Friday.

According to the agreement the National Iranian Oil Company will pay $600 million to the U.S. firm Amoco for settlement of all the disputes between the two companies.

The reimbursement of the amount, given Iran's economic conditions at present will not be that easy for

Tehran. But Iran's agreement to the settlement is indicative of Tehran's earnest desire to settle its financial disputes at The Hague-based Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal as soon as possible.

In fact by agreeing to the settlement Iran is eagerly trying to open ways for the bringing up of a very significant multi-billion dollar case. The case concerning an 11-billion dollar arms deal is one directly involving the U.S. government and not American firms. The U.S. Administration however does not readily admit this.

Iran-U.S. financial disputes are followed by political circles across the region with keen interest. Some observers even tend to believe that the Tehran-Washington out-of-court settlement may be taken as a sign of reduction of hostility between the two parties. These observers also hold that the U.S. is meanwhile trying to somewhat reciprocate Iran's good will gesture in freeing the two American hostages in Lebanon last April.

Some, however, tend to think that the U.S. in fact is not in much of a hurry to get its hostages in Lebanon freed, or, that Washington is after the release of its hostages in a face-saving way as to preserve its so-called superpower prestige.

Those thinking along this line reason that Washington is trying to, at least for appearance's sake, lay primary stress on the East European developments. The U.S. also "seems" quite concerned over the USSR's domestic scene and developments and that is why it appears to approach the hostage problem as a rather second hand issue.

For a fact however the settlement of outstanding financial issues between the U.S. and Iran had nothing to do with political issues. The financial disputes were to be settled within the Algerian Declaration after the release of American spies by Iran in 1980. But the settlement procedures at The Hague has always lacked the expected pace.

Although some rather minor disputes have been settled at The Hague, the Friday 600-million dollar settlement was the first large-sclae dispute to be settled. By and large, political issues and opposing viewpoints between the two countries should not be mixed with their financial disputes.

Commentary Anticipates Continued Lebanese Crisis

NC1606101290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Commentary by Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Excerpts] For a few days now, relative calm has been established in Lebanon—this country of complicated equations and excessive contradictions—between two bullying rivals in East Beirut. It is almost five months now since these two rivals have emptied all the bullets they had on each other's heads in order to knock out one another, wasting the lives of about 2,000 innocent people in the process. But neither one has been able to achieve a favorable result until now.

On the other side of the capital—West Beirut—where most of the residents are Muslims, there is a president who has not yet gained access to his presidential palace and is waiting for foreign forces to oust Michel 'Awn, who unjustly considers himself to be prime minister, from Ba'abda Palace so that he can enter it. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, both rivals in East Beirut have good relations with Saddam's regime and with 'Arafat's organization, both of whom tried their best on the eve of the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad to convince the two rival sides in East Beirut to establish a temporary cease-fire so that respect for Saddam's would not be harmed. This cease-fire was established. But the Vatican and France, both of which consider themselves to be the defenders of the Lebanese Christians, entered the arena and exploited the relative calm for their own aims. Observers believe that France and the Vatican, having failed in their former efforts, are now trying to achieve a political reconciliation and to thus end the extraordinary situation that prevails in East Beirut by increasing the number of cabinet ministers to 24, some of whom will be representatives of Michel 'Awn and that, in turn, this rebel general will hand over the presidential palace to its owner and will act as an opponent within the framework of the government.

In order to implement this plan, Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente took the hand of the Maronite archbishop and took him to West Beirut to meet Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. This archbishop, whose name is Nasrallah Sfayr, had very cold relations with Michel 'Awn as contrary to him, he endorsed the al-Ta'if plan. Parallel with this visit, the French ambassador also went to West Beirut and met with several cabinet ministers.

Now those acquainted with the situation in Lebanon wonder whether in the plan of France and of the Vatican, is the government's endorsement coupled with the endorsement of the al-Ta'if plan or is the intention one of portraying these two as separate from each other? They also wonder whether if a political solution is found in the future, the al-Ta'if plan will also be adjusted to meet the wants of the Vatican, France, and Michel 'Awn.

Irrespective of who is correct, we should also determine America's stand in all this. The Americans are insisting that Michel 'Awn should leave so that the current crisis can be solved. But this request and insistence does not mean that America is trying to solve the Lebanese crisis because it is not even ready to pressure Israel to leave the South so that the element responsible for all these wars and destructions is removed.

Some Lebanese politicians believe that Washington's plan is to create an American Lebanon. Meanwhile Paris also wants Lebanon to remain French, and the rivalry

between Washington and Paris is interfering with reducing these destructive calamities the Lebanese are suffering.

Others say that another element in the continuation of war and bloodshed in East Beirut is the differences of interests and objectives between America and Syria. This group believes that Damascus is not being harmed by the continuation of the current situation and that it will even be very happy if the two Maronite rivals weaken each other to the point of death. This group believes that Syria is trying to prevent the final victory of either one over the other in every possible way. Moreover, true calm in East Beirut, the arrival of the legal army there, and the removal of Michel 'Awn can be achieved only with Syrian help, but Syria will not do this unless it receives the right price from the foreign sides—a price which should be paid in relation to its relations with the West, the Golan Heights, and the Middle East crisis.

Now, in view of this analysis, we should anticipate the crisis in Lebanon and especially in East Beirut to continue. One can judge from all these that the clashes will possibly resume and that this time too the ambassadors of France and of the Vatican will leave the scene more disappointed than they were previously.

Lebanon is a country with a foreign civil war. In other words, the foreign forces are pushing the Lebanese people to be at each other's throats. So many hands are involved in this country's crisis that each time the possibility for a good or bad, just or unjust agreement emerges, a hand emerges from a sleeve and upsets all plans. In short, whether the Lebanese people want it or not, their fate is linked with the fate of the Palestine crisis, with regional conflicts in the Middle East, and even with foreign governments.

Editorial Criticizes Arab Summit Resolution

NC1506155590 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 9 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Arab Honor and Summits"]

[Text] Perhaps the most interesting part of the 20-page final communique issued by the three-day Arab summit in Baghdad was that which sharply criticized U.S. Middle East policy. Sixteen heads of states and other senior officials of the 21-member Arab League met in the Iraqi capital May 28-30 to draw a common strategy vis-a-vis the emigration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, and lay emphasis on the much needed unity and harmony among Arabs to counter increasing Israeli lawlessness.

Warning of an "explosion" in the Middle East because of Zionist policies, the final declaration said in part: The United States shoulders the main responsibility for this situation because of the military capabilities, financial assistance and political cover it extends to Israel without which Israel would not have been able to continue its aggression and challenge of international will. On the same subject the summiteers denounced the recent votes in both chambers of the U.S. Congress that described Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

So far so good. What happens from hereafter? The anti-U.S. statement was widely interpreted by the biased Western media as a "major defeat" for the subservient Arab regimes led by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan. It was simply not so. The three staunchly pro-American rulers had struggled for resolutions that stay clear of "emotion and rhetoric" and project instead "flexible peace ideas" and a halt in the alarming arms race in the region.

For a fleeting moment before the Arab leaders went into the closed-door meetings, it looked as if the Arab world might adopt a strong and binding resolution to at least reduce the speed at which Soviet Jews are pouring into the lands of Palestinians and send a clear message to Washington and Moscow to reevaluate their stance on the highly controversial issue. But the chances of this happening were sabotaged by the very rulers who seek moderation and peace with America's most strategic ally in the Muslim region. Wire services reported, without elaboration, that heated arguments between the so-called hardliners and moderates at the five sessions forced the conference to cancel plans to send an 18-page memorandum to the superpower summit in the United States.

Instead the final statement said: "The Arab leaders affirmed that their countries will take political and economic measures against whichever country that recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel." The Iraqi-hosted meeting called on all states to "stop any assitance or loans that might facilitate the settlement of Jewish emigrants in occupied Palestine or other Arab lands."

Divided and dependent as they are, the bulk of the Arab regimes stand virtually no chance of stopping the Jewish exodus from Russia, or of persuading the Americans to take all the Soviet Jews into the United States instead. The absence, among other Arab leaders, of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at the summit had tied its fate to failure. Any decision, big or small, on the Arab policy towards Palestine and Lebanon without Syrian support is as useless as can be expected. Though Iraqi Saddam Husayn tried to prove otherwise, it was amply clear from the beginning that the absence of Syria and Lebanon would hurt the chances of a successful gathering. Moreover the leaders of Algeria, Morocco and Oman also did not attend—but sent highpowered delegations. Syria and Lebanon boycotted the meeting.

Going back to the section of the statement criticizing America's decades-old Israeli policy, how simple, one thinks now, can the Arab puppet regimes really be. Even a teenager in the Arab and Muslim world is aware of how intimately the great satan is attached to the Zionist state and its stability. What could the Arab rulers possibly gain by making a specific reference to U.S. military, economic and diplomatic backing for the occupying

power at this juncture? It needs little imagination to conclude that the anti-U.S. stance was solely for domestic Arab consumption. The general Arab masses, especially the young, are sick and tired of their rulers' shocking disregard for U.S.-financed atrocities in occupied Palestine. In order to heal some wounds and with an eye on the rising radicalism in many Arab countries, the Baghdad summit made a calculated move to attack U.S. Mideast policy.

Nor is it a wonder that the Arab League memebers urged the United Nations "to shoulder its responsibility... to guarantee that the Jewish emigrants will not be settled" in the lands Israel seized from the Arabs after the 1967 Six-Day War. The oppressed Arab masses heard in disbelief how the summit called for international supervision to guard against the settlement of Jews on Arab soil and to protect Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is, indeed, very unfortunate for the friends and supporters of the Palestinian cause to witness developments in which some of the most richest and militarily powerful of Arab states beg for "international supervision" to protect the life and property of their brethren.

Annoyed by the rhetoric and weak response of the Baghdad conference one neutral observer asked: If the U.N. is responsible for protecting the lands of Palestinians, what is the duty of those Arab states which routinely highlight the cause of the innocent Palestinians? Is it not high time for the Arab states to give practical meaning to their much publicized statements about the future of Palestine?

All the signs are that the summit failed to honestly address the main issue for which it was convened—Jewish emigration. PLO's Yasir 'Arafat had called the meeting to discuss the influx of Soviet Jews which Israeli officials say will reach a million people in the next few years as Moscow has eased travel restrictions and the United States has tightened its entry quotas. The emigration problem notwithstanding, Iraq's Saddam Husayn seemed more than satisfied from what emerged in the final analysis.

In their final statement Arab leaders backed Iraq's right to self- defense and its right to defend itself against any aggression with whatever means it sees fit. This was a declaration of support for Saddam, who said in his inaugural speech that he would hit Israel with chemical weapons if it deployed its nuclear arsenal against Iraq. The Ba'thist regime has binary chemical weapons which it used against Iranian forces and its own Kurdish population in the eight-year-old war.

Experience has proved that the purpose for which Arab conferences are convened is never realized. The move by the Arab League in the Iraqi capital marked a victory for the U.S., Israel and of course, Mr. Saddam Husayn. If it should happen that another such meeting is convened in the near future, Arab leaders with a rational political foresight and national vision will be best advised not to attend. If they do and the outcome is similar to what happened in Baghdad in late May, it would be a matter of the greatest embarrassment to Arab dignity and arouse more public hostility against the irritating regimes.

* Government Intent on Foreign Loans for Programs

90AS0139K London KEYHAN in Persian
7 Jun 90 p 4

[Text] Following the return empty-handed and without results by 'Adeli, governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic, from a meeting of the International Monetary Fund, Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the Islamic Republic's minister of economic affairs and finance, emphasized again that the Islamic regime intends to meet some of the costs of its Five-Year Plan from international and foreign sources. Reliable financial sources believe that the Islamic Republic will not relent in its comprehensive effort to obtain financial resources from foreign investors and to make preparations for loans from foreign banks and international financial institutions. Furthermore, it will study and test every means available to procure the foreign exchange it needs to meet the costs of its Five-Year Plan. A bank official confirmed the report published in THE GUARDIAN of London concerning the likelihood of a loan to the Islamic regime of Tehran from a consortium composed of European banks and international financial institutions, and he announced that the conditions for granting this loan have not yet been agreed to by the lending banks and institutions. The several-billion-dollar loan under discussion will apparently take the form of commercial and import credit to the Islamic Republic, and officials of the regime are required to use the credit extended to purchase and use goods and services produced and marketed by the Western industrial nations, specifically France, West Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Austria, and England.

The official added: Financial credit from the International Monetary Fund to the Islamic Republic requires acceptance of this fund's announced conditions by the country obtaining the loan. These conditions include cutting government subsidies, halting wage increases, curbing inflation, and supporting production from foreign investment.

Regime Miscalculates Oil Foreign Exchange Revenue

In part of his interview with KEYHAN's correspondent, the expert in financial affairs discussed the Islamic Republic's urgent need for foreign exchange and foreign exchange income. He said: The Islamic regime's estimated foreign exchange revenues of $14 to $15 billion for the current year, due to the decline in oil prices, turned out to be completely erroneous, and it is expected that in the current year the Islamic Republic will receive no more than nine to 10 billion dollars from the sale of Iranian crude oil. On the other hand, the Islamic

regime's propaganda barrage about increasing non-petroleum exports also turned out to be baseless and according to reports from Tehran, the value of the regime's non-petroleum exports in the first two months of the current year, Farvardin and Ordibehesht [21 March-21 May] was only slightly higher than the value of those exports in the same period last year.

This financial expert added: Almost none of the promises by the regime's officials to implement projects for development and production investment have been met. The damage caused by the eight-year war with Iraq has not been repaired. Nothing worth mentioning of those areas destroyed by the war, especially in the cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan, has been rebuilt yet.

In another part of his interview with KEYHAN's correspondent, the financial and banking affairs official said: The Islamic regime's officials, in view of the estimated extent of their urgent need for foreign exchange revenues and their awareness of the prominent role played in this area by oil and its export, have provided in their current budget that the oil industry will use about five billion dollars in foreign exchange for exploration and expanded operations, maintenance of oil reserves, and expanding and utilizing oil wells. The Islamic regime's budget officials, to procure this foreign exchange, while noting other sources that can be drawn and borrowed, including a loan of $1.7 billion from abroad, were also counting heavily on revenues from oil exports, but under current international oil market conditions, it will not be possible to obtain foreign exchange at the expected levels from this source either. He added: It is not without reason that the Islamic regime's officials have made every effort to recover assets impounded in the United States of America, obtain damages from the Japanese for withdrawing participation in the construction of the Bandar Shapur Petrochemical Project, recover Iran's loan to France, make advance oil sales to Japanese, German, and French companies, obtain small loans from Islamic and regional institutions, obtain import credits in the form of a usance grace period, turn over to foreigners projects in need of investment with a buy-back agreement, and other undertakings.

Regime Owes Foreigners $12 Billion

The banking official noted that based on information disclosed in the press of the Islamic Republic, such as the newspaper RESALAT, the Islamic Republic now owes about $12 billion in debts to foreigners and debts remaining from the war with Iraq. Apparently, the opening of Iran to imports by the regime's agents to contain the extensive and ever-increasing public dissatisfaction, providing competitive or preferred foreign exchange at 80 to 84 tomans per dollar, and the removal of significant quantities of these dollars by the regime's agents from Iran, has permanently drained the government's foreign exchange reserves and made the regime even more in need of foreign loans and credit.

* Thousands of Villages Abandoned in Favor of Cities

90AS0139P London KEYHAN in Persian
7 Jun 90 p 4

[Text] Based on the public census of 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977], about 27,000 Iranian villages were empty, and in the following 10 years this figure increased significantly, rising to 39,000. Analysis of statistics published by the Iranian Statistics Center shows that Iran's rural population is steadily declining, having already dropped significantly below the urban population. The public population and housing census of 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1985] shows that about 54.5 percent of the nation's population lives in urban areas and about 45.5 percent of it lives in rural areas. In addition, the same statistics show that between 1335 [21 March 1956-20 March 1957] and 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983], not including war refugees, about 14 million people have been added to the urban immigrant population.

Among the nation's provinces, Tehran has the most immigrants. Analysis of the statistics on population distribution within this province shows that more than 86 percent of this population lives in urban areas or, in other words, is urban.

According to this report, which was published in the Tehran newspaper KEYHAN, from 1341 [21 March 1962-20 March 1963] to 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] (a 15-year period) the population of Tehran increased from 2.5 to 4.5 million. In five years, from 1357 to 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] this population doubled. Apparently the increase in urban population due to uncontrolled rural emigration has not been limited to Tehran; it also affects the nation's other large cities. For example, the population of Qom, which did not exceed 200,000 in recent years, has now risen to more than one million.

Karaj has also met with a similar fate. Its population was about 300,000 early in the last decade and has increased to more than 1.5 million. Esfahan, which formerly had a population of about 600,000, now has more than two million.

Population experts believe that with the ever-increasing urban population and the steady decline in the rural population, the Islamic Republic will face numerous problems, chief among them employment, housing, education and training, increased crime, and especially the decline in agricultural production and the nation's increased need for agricultural and livestock products produced abroad. These experts also announced that the superficial and unplanned efforts by officials to reduce the coefficient of population expansion, which is now 3.9 percent per year according to the Iranian Statistics Center, have gone nowhere and Iran's population is increasing with unprecedented speed.

*One Million Hectares 'Drying Up' Yearly

90AS0139O London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] Every year about 1.5 billion tons of the nation's soil is lost due to natural and unnatural erosion, and in addition annually more than one million hectares of the nation's land is drying up.

The above was recently announced by 'Isa Kalantari, the Islamic Republic's minister of agriculture, during his trip to Mashhad to study agricultural conditions in Khorasan Province. Expressing concern about the deterioration of the nation's pastures, he said: Natural resources are considered part of the nation's capital, and currently this capital is being destroyed by ignorant and irresponsible people.

The Islamic Republic's minister of agriculture, enumerating the causes of the destruction of natural resources, named the dry farming of wheat as one of the factors in the destruction of pastures, and he expressed opposition to expanded dry farming in areas with low rainfall. In this regard, he noted that he is not willing to give up natural resources for the sake of wheat production.

'Isa Kalantari said: Under the government's Five-Year Plan, 500,000 hectares of dry-farm land is to be removed from cultivation and converted to pasture. This official added: Last year 70,000 hectares of forest were transferred to non-government sectors for revitalization and utilization. He noted: Persons who received ownership of pastures under the implementation of this project may also transfer them to their heirs.

The Islamic Republic's minister of agriculture announced that this year more than 450 hectares of the nation's land have been cultivated under the pivotal wheat project.

This year more than 1,200 kilograms of wheat per hectare will be produced. He announced that this year's wheat crop is between 7.5 and 8.5 million tons, and added that with the success of the pivotal wheat project, next year one million hectares of the nation's land will be cultivated for wheat.

Pakistan

Spokesman Confirms Foreign Secretaries Talks

BK2806153690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Talks between foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan will be held in Islamabad on the 18th of next month in Islamabad. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the second round of the talks between the foreign secretaries will be held in New Delhi within two weeks of the first round of talks. The spokesman expressed hope that the talks with India will be comprehensive and objective and contribute toward the removal of real reasons for the current tension between the two countries.

Bhutto Comments on Kashmir, Afghanistan, Banks

BK2906030290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has expressed her government's determination to serve the people of all communities and areas without any discrimination. She was addressing a huge gathering after formally inaugurating Ormara Airport on Makran Coast in Balochistan today. The prime minister said the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] had roots in all the four provinces as people from all the provinces representing all the communities had voted it into power. It has been the endeavor of the government to ensure progress and prosperity of every part of the country and for this purpose all-out efforts have been made to attract investments and bring in technology from within the country as well as from abroad. The prime minister said a number of projects have been sanctioned for Balochistan. The Hab River Project is the largest one in the energy sector. The development of communications and transport is also being given full attention. Establishment of an airport at Ormara is part of the government's efforts in this regard. Besides, work on building a highway in the coastal area of Balochistan has also been taken in hand. Ms. Benazir Bhutto announced a grant of 10 lakh rupees for providing engines for the boats of fishermen of Ormara.

About the Kashmir situation, she said the freedom fighters are waging a genuine and legitimate struggle for their right of self-determination. Pakistan is in no way involved in developments in [Indian]-held Kashmir. However, Pakistan would continue to provide moral and political support to the just cause of the Kashmiri people. The prime minister said it is not possible to crush the liberation movement of Kashmiris through atrocities. Pakistan wants a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue through negotiations in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Later, addressing a news conference in Ormara, the prime minister said the government would go ahead with its program of privatization of banks with a view to improving their working. She said the decision in this connection was taken in view of the losses after their nationalization. Ms. Benazir Bhutto shares of Muslim Commercial Bank and allied banks will be offered to the private sector and interests of employees will be protected.

The prime minister said she was aware of the problems of Balochistan and her government was making efforts to solve them. She said during the short period of the PPP government a number of projects aimed at the welfare of the people of Balochistan had been taken in hand. She

referred to the coastal highway and the Mirani Dam project which will bring progress and prosperity to the province.

Replying to a question about the situation in Afghanistan, the prime minister hoped that a solution to the problem would be found through which a government of the choice of the people of that country would be formed to enable Afghan refugees living in Pakistan to return to their homes in peace and honor. She said the present Afghan regime was not acceptable of Afghanistan, mujahidin, or their commanders.

Azad Kashmir Elects New Prime Minister

BK2906113090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathod of the Azad Kashmir People's Party was elected as the new prime minister by the AJK [Azad Jammu Kashmir] legislative assembly in Muzaffarabad today. He got 29 votes out of 44 votes polled. His opponent Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan of the Muslim Conference got 15 votes.

Later, addressing the house, the prime minister-elect Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathod reiterated that the new government would channelize all resources for the liberation of occupied Kashmir, development of the state, and creation of maximum job opportunities for the people of Azad Kashmir. He said the government, with the cooperation of all the allied parties, would set up an Islamic welfare state in the liberated territory to provide justice to all. He highly appreciated the role of the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, for projecting the Kashmir issue at the international level and for promoting democratic values in the country.

UNSC Apprised of Indian 'Atrocities' in Kashmir

BK2306160490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Pakistan has apprised the UN Security Council president of the atrocities being committed by Indian security forces against Muslims of occupied Kashmir. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan disclosed in Islamabad that he has addressed a letter to the UN Security Council president urging him to circulate it among all member-nations as a document of the Security Council. He added that the government has taken several steps at the national and international levels to help stop the massacre of Muslims in occupied Kashmir. The prime minister's recent visit abroad was also aimed at drawing the attention of the world leaders, especially those of Islamic countries, to this tragedy. The parliamentary representatives and leaders of public opinion all over the world have also been fully apprised of this problem and they are now obviously looking at this issue sympathetically.

Abdul Sattar Appointed Envoy to India

BK2506111590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. Abdul Sattar has been appointed Pakistan's high commissioner to India. This was officially stated in Islamabad this afternoon.

Paper Welcomes Scheduled Talks With India

BK2806091990 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Jun 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Starting a Dialogue"]

[Text] The war clouds that have been gathering on the Indo-Pakistan horizon do not look as menacing today as they did until a few weeks ago. Even a visible reduction of tension on the border would be a positive development as would be a realisation on both sides of the advisability of replacing bellicose exchanges of the past few months with talks on their differences. It goes to the credit of the leaderships in Islamabad and New Delhi that at long last they have seen the wisdom of giving the latter option a try. It is good that, instead of breathing fire, they have decided to talk peace for a change. The Indian government's agreeing to Pakistan's proposal to hold top-level talks can be expected to pave the way for a resumption of their dialogue which had been tacitly abandoned six months ago when the Kashmir crisis suddenly burst upon the South Asian scene. Altough their Foreign Ministers met in New York in April, there was no breakthrough. In the meanwhile, the drift has continued and the no-war, no-peace state of Indo-Pakistan relations of the past decade has given way to political confrontation and military tension. The two sides have mobilised their forces and their armies stand poised for a conflict. What is worse, the channels of communication between the two countries which had facilitated a dialogue between them for nearly ten years were virtually slammed shut.

By agreeing to re-start the dialogue with Pakistan, the Indian government has at least moved a step back from the brink of the precipice. But in the given context, that can only represent one single step on the long road to de-escalation, which must be the aim if a more relaxed atmosphere is to be created. The basic cause of the present crisis is Kashmir. Whether New Delhi accepts it or not, the fact is that the struggle of the Kashmiris for their self-determination has estabilised conditions in the occupied territory prompting India to lash out at Pakistan. War rhetoric apart, the dispute over the future status of Kashmir is a key factor in the present round of Indo-Pakistan confrontation. The issue has remained unresolved for over four decades, causing the two neighbours to be locked in a war of words when not embroiled in open hostilities. But India has rejected all offers of negotiation on Kashmir on the specious plea that it is an internal matter for New Delhi. That is a clear repudiation of the UNCIP [United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan] resolutions and the Simla accord of

1972 which recognise the Kashmir issue as a dispute between India and Pakistan that is yet to be resolved. Even assuming that India has a case about the current happenings in Kashmir that is weighty enough, it should have had no hesitation in placing it on the negotiation table. Admittedly, the Foreign Secretaries' talks that New Delhi has agreed to hold next month will help somewhat to defuse tensions and clarify the issues, especially if some confidence-building measures are adopted. But that can only be a prelude to substantive talks on issues that are at the root of the present Indo-Pakistan crisis. For normalisation of the right kind, it is essential for the two governments to show the necessary will and foresight to come to grips with issues of dispute between their two countries, and that, above all else, means devising ways of providing the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir which was promised to them in 1947-48. This is the issue at the core of the intermittent crisis in the subcontinent over the last four decades. It is not realism to bypass this and yet expect genuine normalisation in Indo-Pakistan relations.

Commentary Urges Talks With India on Kashmir

BK2106072790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Syed Nazir Bukhari commentary]

[Text] There are positive indications that India and Pakistan would start talks to reduce the tension which has been created because of the unresolved issue of Kashmir. These probable talks may be a consequence of the consistent advice being received by both the countries from their friends who are urging them to negotiate on Kashmir and not to encourage trends which could ultimately result in a war-like situation. As the possibility of talks was becoming hot news, just at that time there was a unilateral announcement of the provisional government of Jammu and Kashmir by the leader of the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front].

The Pakistan Foreign Office, while responding to a question about this announcement, clearly stated that the Government of Pakistan had always dealt with the successive governments of Azad Kashmir as the legal administrative authority of the territory, and no announcement or declaration which was inconsistent with these established facts could be treated as valid. The spokesman recalled that the UN resolutions were adopted in the context of the option given to the princely states of the subcontinent to join either India or Pakistan, keeping in view a well-defined criterion. The UN resolutions were unambiguously based on the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination. So, according to the Pakistan Foreign Office, the future of Jammu and Kashmir would have to be settled through the exercise of the right of self-determination as envisaged in the relevant UN resolutions.

This clear statement of the Pakistan Foreign Office leaves no ambiguity about the policy of the Government of Pakistan regarding the JKLF announcement. More than that, during the last month, after her return from the tour of some Muslim countries, the prime minister of Pakistan also, responding to a question on the related issue, reiterated that Pakistan stood by the principle governing the choice of states. The principle was that the states of undivided India would have the right to either join India or Pakistan in accordance with the wishes of their people.

The trouble of Kashmir started when the Indian Government violated this basic principle, and even after making a firm commitment at the UN to give the right of self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, went back on its promises and excuses untenable in international law. She also (?defied) the world body in the process. The (?notorious) fact of the whole situation is that to date, India continues to violate the principle of the division of the subcontinent as well as the UN resolutions of 1948; so much so that its present leadership is trying to rewrite history which is so recent that it cannot be obliterated from the minds of those who have lived through the happenings of 1947-48. Instead of (?responding) to a simple [word indistinct] on Kashmir, which is just to hold talks with Pakistan, India is trying to explain the Kashmir problem to the world leaders in an incorrect perspective with the aim of misleading them. Here, too, India is not succeeding. All the world leaders have again and again asked India and Pakistan to hold talks on Kashmir. The recent example is the suggestion by the president and the foreign minister of Iraq. According to a broadcast of All India Radio, the president of Iraq, the foreign minister of Iraq, and the PLO leader, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, have all suggested that India and Pakistan should hold direct talks to resolve the issue.

Yesterday in Pakistan, the Iranian foreign minister, while addressing a gathering of intellectuals, said that Iran did not want war to break out between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue because the war would bring catastrophic consequences for both the countries, and Iran supported a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue through dialogue. He said Iran's support to Pakistan on Kashmir was purely based on principles, [words indistinct] that there were UN resolutions on this issue, and also that Iran felt concerned at the plight and persecution of Muslims anywhere in the world. For these principles too, Iran had very consistently supported the Muslim people of Afghanistan against foreign aggression. This is such a forthright stand of world leaders on resolving the Kashmir dispute, and so consistent, that Pakistan's point of view that any effort to change or misinterpret it will be counterproductive.

In view of the present state of affairs created by the Kashmir crisis, the suggestion of talks between India and Pakistan is not only positive and welcome but refreshing. Some observers rightly feel that the opportunity should be grabbed without losing any more time.

Daily Urges Acquisition of Nuclear Deterrent

BK2306133290 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 10 Jun 90 p 3

[Editorial: " Internal Unity, Nuclear Deterrent—Real Defense"]

[Text] According to a NEW YORK TIMES report, if Pakistan and India fail to resolve their differences over the Kashmir dispute and go to war in the coming few months, this will be the first war in history in which the two sides might resort to using nuclear weapons. The report notes that India is capable of dropping 40 to 60 atom bombs on target with the help of its 200 sophisticated aircraft. This is enough to destroy Pakistan's five major cities. Pakistan's nuclear capability is less than that of India's. Pakistan can only manufacture five to 10 atom bombs and has 40 to 50 sophisticated aircraft to deliver nuclear weapons on target.

The concern expressed by the U.S. newspaper about a future war between India and Pakistan actually reflects the apprehensions of the United States and the entire Western world. It is due to the fear of a nuclear war that Washington and Western countries are trying to help avert by all means the possibility of war. Is there be a bigger joke than the people of the United States and Europe becoming worshippers of peace?

Anyway, it must be made clear to the world that Pakistan is a peace-loving country on which India had imposed two wars in the past. Even today, India has not only been carrying out massacres in occupied Kashmir through its armed forces, it has also moved troops out of its cantonments and deployed them on borders to intimidate Pakistan which fully reserves the right to strengthen its defense positions—a right which the United States, Europe or the free world cannot deny it.

But, Pakistan's problem is that it does not have an arms stockpile equivalent to what India has built up, making its people victims of poverty, hunger, and starvation in the process. Pakistan also cannot push back aggressor India's military force through conventional means, because when we compare only the naval strength of the two countries, we find that it is virtually impossible for Pakistan to take on India's blue water Navy. In addition to that, the Pakistani Army is performing double duty in Karachi; and if the Army also has to shoulder civilian responsibilities in the event of war, the country's defense will be left only to God.

At present, Pakistan is facing both internal and external dangers and its only way out is to immediately control the domestic unrest and find ways and means to forge national unity. To achieve this objective, it is necessary to eliminate the agents of [India's] "Research and Analysis Wing" and other foreign agents and subversives who have infiltrated into the ranks of the people of major cities like Karachi, creating disturbances as and when they want.

On the other hand, Pakistan must not shy away from exercising its option of nuclear deterrence, as it has no other means of staving off a possible Indian aggression. Pakistan is a peace-loving country and it does not want to vitiate the atmosphere of peace and reconciliation now prevailing in the world, but it will never compromise its national security and independence. Since it is not possible for Pakistan to face India's challenge and meet its formidable war machines with conventional weapons and worn-out strategy, it must therefore exercise the nuclear-weapon option, so that India will not dare attack Pakistan for fear of Islamabad's retaliation.

In fact, the atom bomb can be a deterrent. The reason why world nations, especially the two superpowers, are striving for peace is that each side knows the other is not weak. Pakistan too, by acquiring the same level of capability, can succeed in keeping India from committing any mischief against it.

Science Cooperation Pact Signed With PRC

BK2506023290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Pakistan and the PRC have signed an agreement to promote cooperation in the field of science and technology. Under the agreement, Pakistan has proposed 30 special sectors and the PRC 20 for mutual cooperation, including oceanography, nuclear medicine, electronics, improvement in health facilities in rural areas, forests, and inspection of vehicles and maintaining their standards.

Sri Lanka

Wijeratne Holds Weekly Cabinet Briefing

Explains Attack on Journalists

BK2806143490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1225 GMT 28 Jun 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said at today's cabinet news briefing in Colombo that he had inquired into the reported strafing of a car in which two foreign journalists, James Pringle of the LONDON TIMES and Bob Drogin of the LOS ANGELES TIMES, were travelling in an operational area at Omanthai in Batticaloa and had been informed that those travelling in it had not been identified as expatriates and were thought by the helicopter crew from the height at which they were flying to be fleeing LTTE cadres. Both were unhurt.

Mr. Pringle was present at today's cabinet news briefing.

Defense secretary General Cyril Ranatunge advised journalists not to move in such situations and to help the security forces by not going into operational areas.

Associated with the minister of plantation industries and minister of state for defence, Ranjan Wijeratne, and the minister of industries, science and technology, Ranil Wickremasinghe, at today's cabinet news briefing were the minister of state for information, A. J. Ranasinghe; presidential advisor on international relations, Bradman Weerakoon; Defense Secretary General Cyril Ranatunge; and the secretary in the ministry of rehabilitation and commissioner general of essential services, Charitha Ratwatte.

2,000 Tamils Rescued From LTTE

BK2806141490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1210 GMT 28 Jun 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 28 June (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne addressing newsmen at today's weekly cabinet briefing said that 2,000 Tamils, who had been held by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists to be used as human shields were rescued by the Special Task Force after their arrival at Tirukkovil in the Ampara District.

LTTE cadres had segregated [as received] these innocent Tamils as human shields against advancing security forces and left them in the lurch.

The LTTE had forced them into this situation and done nothing to assist them.

The armed forces had to liberate them and feed them.

This is what the LTTE was doing, while carrying out a lot of propaganda, Mr. Wijeratne said.

Associated with Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne at today's cabinet news briefing were Minister for Industries Science and Technology Ranil Wickremasinghe, Minister of State for Information A.J. Ranasinghe, Presidential Advisor on International Relations Bradman Weerakoon, Secretary for Defense General Cyril Ranatunge and Secretary in the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Commissioner General of Essential Services Charitha Ratwatte.

Cites LTTE 'Scorched Earth' Policy

BK2806143690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1156 GMT 28 Jun 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] are adopting a scorched earth policy, charged the minister of plantation industries and minister of state for defence, Ranjan Wijeratne, at today's weekly cabinet news briefing.

Mr. Wijeratne said that in the process they were damaging some vital bridges. Yesterday, they blasted the Malwatu Oya bridge in the Mannar area vital to the population. "And, the LTTE is complaining that we are harrassing the civilian population", said the minister.

He said the LTTE had damaged five bridges.

The commissioner general of essential services, Charitha Ratwatte, said that difficulty was being encountered in distributing food supplies in the Mannar District due to the LTTE having blown up five bridges.

Associated with the minister of plantation industries and minister of state for defence, Ranjan wijeratne, and the minister of industries, science and technology, Ranil Wickremasinghe, at today's cabinet news briefing were minster of state for information, A. J. Ranasinghe; presidential advisor on international relations, Bradman Weerakoon; Defense Secretary General Cyril Ranatunge; and secretary in the Ministry of Rehabilitation and commissioner general of essential services, Charitha Ratwatte.

Further on Tamils Rescue, Military Advances

BK2806115690 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The security forces made further advances into the Eastern Province, while consolidating their positions in the Northern Province yesterday. According to a communique issued by the information department, Army camps have been re-established at Karaitivu, Kalmunai, and Chavalakadai in the Amparai District. The Special Task Force [STF] operating in the Sangamankanda area, southwest of Tirukkovil has been successful in releasing a group of around 2,000 Tamil people, who have been held captive by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists inside a school for not acting as human shields, when called upon to do so and for not providing them with information on the movements of the STF. The STF provided meals for these refugees out of their own ration, as they had been held by LTTE terrorists for over three days without food. At Vinayakapura, security forces raided an LTTE illicit timber depot and recovered 1,493 teak and [word indistinct] logs said to have been collected for the construction of quarters for the LTTE politburo members.

In the Batticaloa District, security forces made steady progress in the clearing up and cordon and search operation in and around terrorist hideouts. In these operations, security forces destroyed well-constructed bunkers and recovered camouflage uniforms, hand grenades, arms and ammunition, and a number of vehicles belonging to the government which had been commandeered by the LTTE terrorists.

In the northern sector, LTTE terrorists continued attacks on the Kankesanthurai Army camp, Naval detachments and harbor area with mortars and rockets. The Sri Lanka Air Force successfully dropped essential food supplies to the marooned Army and police personnel in the Jaffna fort amid intermittent firing of mortars and rockets.

However, it has not been possible to remove the injured soldiers out from the fort for hospitalization.

In the Mannar District, LTTE terrorists blasted the (Malwatuwa) bridge at the 34th mile post on the Cheddi Kulam-Mannar Road.

Roundup Reviews 27 Jun Operations Against LTTE

BK2806142490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1200 GMT 28 Jun 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—During the last 24 hours ending 1200 noon today, the Sri Lanka security forces further consolidated their positions in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Security sources reported that since the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists launched their unprovoked attacks on Sri Lankan security forces and the police on the 11th of June 1990, the intensity and scale of operations by the LTTE terrorists has been considerably reduced. Security intelligence sources attribute this to the military strategies and tactics adopted by the Sri Lanka security forces and their ability to mount their attacks amidst stiff opposition. On the other hand the comparatively untrained cadres of the LTTE mainly consisting of children in their teens have fled into the jungles while the supply of arms and ammunition and the logistic back up has broken down. It is reported that the LTTE terrorist tactics before they flee into the jungles is to destroy government buildings, houses, bridges, culverts and other installations, states a press release issued by the Information Depatment this evening.

In the Northern Province the Jaffna Fort continued to be under siege. The security forces succeeded in attacking several mortar and rocket launching points situated around the Jaffna Fort from the air. These attacks triggered off explosions in several places. They are said to be ammunition dumps, strategically located around the Jaffna Fort. Food was air dropped into the Jaffna Fort yesterday. Casualties in the fort have not been evacuated yet.

In Kankesanturai, the security forces detachment at the cement factory explosive dump was withdrawn to Palaly base camp. Most of the explosives were recovered and the ammunition dump demolished. A large number of LTTE terrorists have gone into occupation of the Kankesanturai cement factory.

In the Eastern Province, the security forces continued to conduct clearing and cordon and search operations. In Kalmunai 12 LTTE terrorists including the political and a propaganda leader died in an encounter with the security forces.

At Mangalaoya, 5 LTTE terrorists died in a cordon and search operation by security forces. The ICRC [International Committee of Red Cross] commenced distribution of food and providing medical assistance to a large number of displaced people in Potuvil, Urani, and Sangamankanda.

At Unnachi in Batticaloa District, the security forces engaged the LTTE terrorists killing nine of them. They recovered a large number of mortars, T-56 rifles, ammunition and Claymore mines together with a landrover, two tractors and a number of police uniforms and batons.

The release further states the donations received by the National Defence Fund stood at 24 million rupees. The commissioner general of essential services has despatched a large quantity of essential food supplies to Vavuniya, Polonnaruwa, Ampara and Moneragala to be made available to the government agents of the affected districts.

The commissioner general of the essential services has taken steps to establish civilian information centres in all Kachcheries [police stations] in the Northern and Eastern Provinces under the direct supervision of the government agents of the respective districts to assist the civilian population at a time of disrupted communications. Such centres for civilian information are also being set up at a division level. The centres will liaise with the refugee camps, record damage to property and help with relevant information to the public.